

# THE TIMES

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Challengers emerge as Major tries to silence talk of a landslide defeat

## Portillo and Heseltine would fight for crown

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL HESELTINE and Michael Portillo emerged yesterday at the head of an eight-man field that will run for the Tory leadership if John Major goes down to heavy defeat on Thursday.

The Deputy Prime Minister's supporters say privately that he still has the energy and ambition to challenge for the ultimate office. They believe that his strong performance in the campaign, including an apparent shift towards the Eurosceptics, will have helped his chances.

Senior party figures believe that in any run-off with a right-wing candidate Mr Heseltine would get the backing of Mr Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has long been considered a leading contender of the Right and will throw his hat into the ring. His supporters are making discreet efforts to broaden his base within the parliamentary party, and *The Times* has learnt that some leading figures on the centre-left have been approached to join his campaign when it rolls.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, John Redwood, the former Welsh secretary, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, Mr Clarke, William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, are all believed to be ready to go for the leadership. Norman Lamont could be a ninth, running on a ticket to withdraw from the European Union.

Although Mr Major is refusing to contemplate anything other than victory on Thursday, close supporters say that he will be urged to make it plain immediately, if he loses, that he will stand down — but only after an interval sufficient to allow an orderly transition.

Mr Redwood, who had already challenged Mr Major once and who is unencumbered by recent Cabinet office, is certain to be the first out of the starting blocks. A Redwood supporter is expected to be the first to call for a contest if the Tories lose the election. Mr Howard is seen as a heavyweight candidate for the Right and would

be able to count on the backing of several influential ministers, who believe that he has been underused during the campaign.

Senior ministers who will play a pivotal role in any leadership election say that Mr Heseltine is one of the few Cabinet ministers whose claims have strengthened as a result of the campaign. His readiness to admit that he had sketched the advert showing a tiny Tony Blair sitting on the knee of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was seen as a non-too-subtle nod towards the Eurosceptics that he has got the message.

Ministers expect Mr Clarke to run and to win the votes in the first ballot of the pro-European minority, whose members are delighted that he has refused to compromise one iota during the campaign, allowing his distaste for elements of it to become apparent.

But because of his fierce pro-European line Mr Clarke may be unable to secure sufficient support to carry him through to a second ballot. All the indications are that at that stage he would throw his

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backing behind Mr Heseltine. He has told friends that he still thinks Mr Heseltine is a pro-European at heart.

Mr Major, too, could be expected to come out for Mr Heseltine. The two men are closer than they have ever been: and the Prime Minister is known to believe that since he offered Mr Heseltine the deputy prime ministership in 1995 — before the leadership election of that year — he has had total loyalty from him.

Mr Hague has made massive strides in recent months and is almost certain to test the water in the first ballot, even though many Conservatives see him as the next leader but one. Mr Dorrell has been prominent during the campaign and has taken an increasingly Eurosceptic stance in recent months. Mr Rifkind, who has also tilted towards Euroscepticism and allowed his private opposition to the single currency to become known, will almost certainly be in the field, although he has first to hold his seat in Edinburgh, Pentlands.

The causes of Mr Rifkind, Mr Dorrell and Mr Hague would be helped by a longer campaign that would enable them to underline their credentials with the new intake of Tories, which will be large even if there is a heavy defeat.



Sunday styles: Cherie Blair campaigning in Derby yesterday, and Edwina Currie returning home from shopping in Findern



## Major and Blair go all out for victory

By Philip Webster

JOHN MAJOR tried to lift Tory gloom and Tony Blair warned his party against complacency as the prospect of a Labour landslide appeared to harden yesterday with only four days to polling.

The Prime Minister will today launch a desperate rearguard attempt to stay on in office with a whistlestop tour to all parts of Britain warning voters to "wake up" to the dangers of a change of government.

At the same time Mr Blair will mount his final push for power by again raising the spectre of a Conservative victory to encourage all Labour supporters and waverers to come out and vote for him. "I take nothing for granted in this election," he said yesterday as Labour's lead increased by two points, according to the latest opinion poll.

Gallup's rolling survey for today's *Daily Telegraph* showed Labour on 49 per cent, up one on the *Sunday Telegraph* figure. The Tories are at 30 per cent, down one, with the Liberal Democrats at 14

per cent, up one. But the weekend polls pointing to a landslide — which politicians in both parties still regard as unlikely — have caused problems in the Tory camp and some misgivings in Labour's.

The Tories, dismayed by the intervention of Edwina Currie, the former minister, predicting a Labour win, feared that the polls might encourage the public to think that the battle was over, and drive them either to join the Labour bandwagon or stay away.

Labour, whose own private polls do not suggest a lead of the size suggested by the public surveys, is concerned that its heartland supporters might be discouraged from turning out because they think the game is over.

The Labour leadership is therefore returning for the remainder of the campaign to its strong core issues such as health and education in an attempt to maximise its support on Thursday. Its final election broadcast tonight will warn

Continued on page 2, col 5

## BA lets the train take the strain

By Harvey Elliott and Adam Sage in Paris

PASSENGERS arriving for a British Airways flight from Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris may find themselves being offered a trip on Eurostar instead.

The airline is refusing to load

luggage into holds on its flights from the airport because of fears of attack by Algerian terrorists. Passengers for at least eight of the airline's 12 flights a day are being checked in at temporary desks on the tenth floor of the airport's terminal one but are being told that their bags must stay behind. If

they protest they are offered seats on Eurostar or rival airlines.

"We do not know what it is costing, but that is a secondary consideration," BA said last night. "The security of our passengers and staff is paramount."

BA is concerned at the sudden

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### THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

**TODAY**  
 Melvyn Bragg on football as an art form

U2's world tour: The first report

### TOMORROW

Children and drugs — part 2



### WEDNESDAY

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### THURSDAY

FILMS: Helena Bonham Carter's new movie Margaret's Museum

Oliver Holt on England's World Cup qualifier against Georgia

### FRIDAY

ROCK AND POP: Caitlin Moran and David Sinclair on the latest releases

### SATURDAY

Magazine: Alan Franks meets Dame Edna, Les Patterson — and Barry Humphries

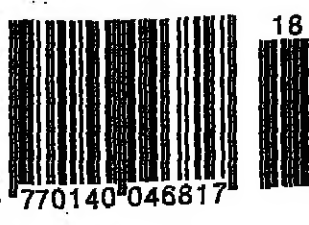
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# Ramblers fear £1 fee would make Ben Nevis climb more taxing

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

RAMBLERS may soon be charged £1 to climb Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak, in a move that some fear could threaten the long-held principle of free access to the Scottish countryside.

Highland councillors will today discuss whether to introduce the fee for walkers and climbers taking part in charity events, such as the Three Peaks race, in which participants scale Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike in the Lake District. The proposal part of a new

Highland councillors consider charging ramblers to pay for car parks, toilets and litter collection, as well as repairs to mountain paths

mountain code of conduct and aims to help to pay for the rising cost of providing car parks, toilet facilities and litter collection, as well as repairs to damaged mountain paths caused by the thousands of visitors each year.

The proposal has split the council and enraged outdoor groups

who fear it may set a precedent and provide ammunition for landlords who object to people walking on their land, Iain MacDonald, chairman of the council's economic development committee, said he was totally opposed to the idea. "The hills of Scotland have always been free. I am active in promoting free

access to the countryside, particularly where landlords have tried to stop ramblers. If we are seen to charge £1 for particular groups, then it goes against the grain. We still have Highland hospitality and we love people to come and see our mountains. We want to put as few obstacles in their path as possible."

The £1 charge to scale the 4,406 ft peak is outlined in a policy paper drawn up by John MacDonald, leisure services manager, for the culture and leisure services committee. It is not clear how it would be implemented but the document

envisages charging £1 per rambler where large groups are involved in charity events. Some organisations already make a voluntary donation.

Neil Clarke, the committee convenor, said he believed walkers should pay towards the upkeep of facilities at Glen Nevis. He said hundreds of Three Peaks races took place each year, sometimes with as many as 2,000 participants. That placed an immense strain on facilities with council employees forced to work overtime to unblock toilets and repair eroded paths.

The £1 fee would not be a charge

to climb Ben Nevis, he insisted. "We couldn't do that because we don't own the mountain. The suggestion is that there be some charge made for the facilities, to compensate the council."

He admitted that such a charge might be difficult to enforce and said he was preparing to put forward an alternative proposal to introduce parking charges instead, which might be more practical. At present the 200 spaces at Glen Nevis are free. Snowdon and Scafell charge for parking.

Robin Campbell, chairman of

the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, said the planned fees were "completely ludicrous" although he did not object to charging for parking. He said hillwalking was worth £150 million a year to the Highland economy with 100,000 climbers visiting Ben Nevis alone.

"They spend large amounts of money in Fort William," he said. "There is no doubt Ben Nevis is the mainstay of the local economy and if they start to tax it, because that is what this amounts to, then they might scare people away. I think they are crazy to consider it."

## West African fraud gangs steal £3.5bn a year from Britain

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WEST AFRICAN criminals account for nearly half of Britain's annual £8 billion losses through fraud, according to a police intelligence report being studied by chief constables and ministers.

The report says that gangs of Nigerians and Ghanaians steal up to £3.5 billion each year, using a range of simple but highly effective ruses. The cash comes not only from gullible individuals but also businesses and from the Government through benefit fraud.

The losses have become so high that Britain is joining other members of the G7 economic group to put pressure on West African coun-

tries. In June a package of measures, including tighter visa controls by Western nations and new attempts to build up an international network of intelligence, will be put before the economic summit of heads of government in Denver, Colorado.

One senior Scotland Yard investigator said: "They are usually in loosely organised groups, rather like the Jamaican-based 'Yardie' drug gangs, but they are more sophisticated and more dangerous." He compared them to "economic terrorists" capable of widespread damage.

He said the gangs operated across a number of countries to make it difficult for investi-

gators to track them down or bring charges. They were also highly versatile, and the often ineffective West African police forces were regarded as a poor match.

The latest assessment of the losses was gathered by the National Criminal Intelligence Service and is now being studied by every chief constable and CID head in the country. Scotland Yard and City of London fraud investigators deal with many of the larger frauds, but many others are handled by local fraud squads and the overall picture has never been put together before.

Two weeks ago NCIS held an international conference in London to assess the extent of the problem. Earlier this month officials and investigators preparing the agenda for the G7 summit in Denver also met in Washington to examine the problem.

An NCIS spokesman said: "There is global concern about West African organised crime. Governments internationally are looking at the problem and NCIS is part of the effort."

American investigators are as worried about the activities of the West African conmen as are senior British police officers. John Gresser, the legal attaché and FBI representative at the American Embassy in London, said: "Internationally, there is growing concern about this. It is a problem for many of the Western countries."



Rowers at Leander yesterday. Members were concerned that there were no boats or facilities for women

## Leander takes women on board

BY MIKE ROSEWELL AND ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S premier rowing club voted by a "clear majority" yesterday to admit women members for the first time in its 179-year history. The decision clears the way for Leander to pursue its application for a £1.5 million lottery grant to redevelop its facilities at Henley-on-Thames.

The decision to admit women was taken at a special general meeting at which substantially more than two thirds of the 162 members present voted in favour of the change. Announcing the result, John Beveridge, the secretary, read a statement saying that the club intended to continue its existing "gold medal-winning" policy of concentrating on men's heavyweight rowing.

The membership had decided to consid-

er the admission of women and the grant application separately after Matthew Pinsent, Leander's double Olympic gold medalist, and several club coaches argued that Leander did not have boats or space to provide facilities for women equal to those it offered as a "high performance" centre for heavyweight men, as designated by the Amateur Rowing Association.

The Leander membership, although happy to accept women members, were clearly not prepared to jeopardise the club's contribution to men's heavyweight international rowing for sake of a £1.5 million of lottery money. Chris Rodrigues, the club chairman, said: "Leander will pursue its lottery application providing it can be assumed that this will in no way compromise its rowing policy."

Ivor Lloyd, captain of Leander for the

past 13 years, said: "The lottery may need to revise its rules if it wishes to support international athletes such as Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent at high performance centres such as Leander. By definition they cannot cater for all and sundry as a local leisure centre might."

Mr Rodrigues said: "Reassuringly, the Sports Council completely accepts that Leander is an elite rowing club and is not open to everyone."

There is unlikely to be a rush of women to join a club, which at present lacks the facilities for them. High performance centres for women are situated in other locations such as London and Marlow, the latter under the control of the new women's chief coach, Mike Spracklen. The choice of such centres is determined by the Amateur Rowing Association, and not by the clubs concerned.

## Shake-up 'will make courts worse'

Politicians will be warned tonight not to implement proposals by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, for a court shake-up to cut costs and delays. Professor Michael Zander, QC, member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice which reported in 1973, says the Woolf plan for judges to be trial managers will worsen the system.

In the spring lecture to the Chancery Bar Association, he is due to say that American experience shows that where judges take control of the pace of litigation, there are higher costs and an increase in uncontrolled judicial discretion. Courts need intervene only in the minority of cases where lawyers abuse the system, he says.

## Unhealthy cells

Prison governors are asking for a medical opinion on whether cells in Britain's first modern prison ship will be too dark to use. David Roden, chairman of Prison Governors' Association, is asking the Prison Service's chief medical officer to consider examining accommodation on board HMP Wear, which is due to take prisoners this summer.

## Protest warning

Animal rights protests may become "more violent," a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front said after a weekend of confrontation. A firebomb attack caused damage at a livestock haulier in Warwickshire and nine people were arrested at demonstrations in Oxfordshire. The spokesman said there was a new mood of anger about the way animals were treated.

## Prince's party

The Prince of Wales will host a tea party tomorrow for the traditionalist Prayer Book Society at St James's Palace, London, to mark the society's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The decision by the Prince to host the reception is being interpreted as a sign of his commitment to the Church of England at a time when the society's membership is growing.

## Family album

Linda McCartney, 54, hugs one of her horses in a family snap taken by her husband, Sir Paul, for his new album. It is the first photograph to be released since she underwent chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. Since the disease was diagnosed in 1995, she has been pictured publicly only once, during a brief acceptance speech at an animal-rights awards ceremony.

## Muslims hope

a city of dream

## Final push

Continued from page 1  
people of the risks of not voting and today Labour will repeat its claims that the Government is intent on a "creeping privatisation" of the health service.

It intends to focus on a leaked memorandum from Norwich Union Healthcare, Britain's third biggest private medical insurer, which apparently looks at ways of signing up new customers who might have a feeling of "guilt towards abandoning the NHS".

Mr Blair yesterday opened a new front, condemning Conservative proposals for a grammar school in every town as "fatuous, absurd and dangerous" because for every new grammar there would be four or five secondary moderns.

The polls, suggestions of discontent in the high command, and signals that the backers of the main Tory leadership contenders are quietly preparing for a post-election contest failed to deter the determination of Mr Major yesterday.

Conservative candidates, including senior ministers, continued to maintain that the position in the constituencies was better than that suggested by the polls, although it is now difficult to find anyone who truly believes that they can win outright.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, insisted yesterday that it was "highly premature" to assume that Labour was heading for a landslide victory. He said voters had seen the election robbed from them by politicians. "Let not now the press decide to rob them of the result."

## Attorney-General challenged by banned litigant

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Attorney-General is facing a challenge for his seat at the general election by one of the growing band of people barred from the courts as "vexatious litigants".

Lew Foley, 59, a former heating engineer, is standing as an independent Conservative in Bedfordshire North East as a way of airing his grievances against Sir Nicholas Lyell over what he says he has suffered at the hands of solicitors and the courts.

The challenge by Mr Foley — who has lodged 37 civil actions in 25 years — follows that of another "vexatious litigant", Peter Rubery Hayward, a businessman who changed his name by deed poll to Sir Nicholas Lyell.

The Attorney-General was forced to go to court two weeks ago to obtain an injunction to stop his namesake standing and confusing the electors. Mr Foley and the former Mr Hayward have been barred from the courts under the powers that judges have to blacklist "vexatious litigants".

The list, obtained by *The Times*, shows that there has been a steady increase in the number of litigants being banned from the courts. Since records began in 1888, 128 people have been barred from the courts. On average, five people a year are now banned. Once on the list, which is

circulated to courts, they are never "rehabilitated" and remain there, even after death.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, told *The Times* that any rise in the number of people banned from the courts was likely to be related to the significant growth in the number of litigants in person — people acting without lawyers. "Some people are just mischievous but others have a real sense of grievance," Lord Woolf said. "Perhaps they don't understand the rulings they have been given or perhaps the courts have not served them well."

The Attorney-General's power to request the High Court to declare a person is vexatious is now contained in section 42 of the Supreme Court Act 1981. About 20 requests are made each year although the Attorney-General does not act on them all. His applications have never been turned down by the courts.

Under the Act, a person must have "habitually and persistently and without any reasonable ground" brought vexatious proceedings. Factors the Attorney-General considers include the number of actions brought by the person, the circumstances and character of the litigation, degree of hardship caused and likelihood of the legal actions going on if an order is not obtained.

## BA lets the train take the strain

Continued from page 1

arrival of Air Algérie at the airport. The airline, which has three flights a day to Algeria, was granted permission to open two check-in desks alongside those of BA, but BA officials claim that it is not subject to the same security screening and police protection given to Air Algérie operations at other French airports.

In protest, BA refused to operate from the airport on Saturday while the Air Algérie desk was manned. Instead, BA switched its flights to Orly, leading to delays and confusion for passengers.

But furious French officials accused BA of acting illegally and sent a faxed warning that the airline would lose its

licence to fly to Paris at all if it continued to divert flights to Orly. "The security measures were agreed with the state before Air Algérie resumed flying, and we consider they were sufficient," a spokesman for Aéroports de Paris said yesterday.

Security was tight for Air Algérie's first flights to the French capital for two years, according to the French. But BA was unrepentant. "The security of our passengers and staff is all important, and we are very concerned about the adequacy of the security arrangements for dealing with Air Algérie," a spokesman said.

"We complained to the British Govern-

ment and to the French authorities, and although we did divert a few flights to Orly, we have now moved them back to Charles de Gaulle in view of the fax."

Now BA, backed at least in spirit by other airlines at Charles de Gaulle, is appealing to a tribunal in Paris to try to rescind Air Algérie's licence to operate to the airport unless security is tightened. The airline is particularly concerned because hold baggage is sent down the same chute as BA bags and is sorted in the same baggage area.

Most passengers with hold bags are happy to leave them with BA to follow on a later flight after Air Algérie has closed its desks for the day. But a few prefer to fly with other airlines or switch to Eurostar.

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Screams put down to weekend drinkers

## Police hunt killer of woman stabbed in pub car park

By Russell Jenkins

MURDER squad detectives have interviewed more than a hundred drinkers at a pub where a judge's daughter was stabbed to death minutes after last orders were called.

Police believe that the killer lunged at Rachel McGrath, 27, as she stepped out of her dark Peugeot in the car park of the Victoria Tavern in Bramhall, Greater Manchester, shortly after 11pm on Friday. Miss McGrath, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, who was due to pick up her boyfriend from the pub, was stabbed repeatedly, mainly in the throat.

People living near by heard screams around the time of her death, but put them down to Friday night revellers. Miss McGrath's body was found at 11.08pm by a woman who had also arrived to pick up her boyfriend from the pub.

Greater Manchester Police have set up an incident room in Stockport. They have issued an appeal for anybody who was in the pub after 10pm on Friday to contact them. So far they have questioned more



Rachel McGrath had gone to fetch boyfriend

than 100 drinkers. Friends and neighbours of Miss McGrath spoke of a friendly woman who was devoted to her boyfriend, Kevin Forster. Mr Forster, who works as a financial adviser, came out of the pub to see her lying dead on the ground. His father, Ian, 56, speaking at their home in Bramhall, said: "Kevin is devastated. It is a terrible thing to have happened."

Brian McGrath, the victim's father, works as a district judge and sits in the Family

Division in Manchester, ruling mainly on domestic cases. Miss McGrath, who worked for the Halifax Building Society, had lived with Mr Forster for two years.

She was featured with her boyfriend and his family in the Money Mail section of the Daily Mail last week. They were used to illustrate an article about the Halifax Building Society. She was shown smiling into the camera beside a caption that suggested she was in line to receive 200 free shares.

Gary Rose, 24, a neighbour, said: "It is a terrible thing to happen. You just don't expect that sort of thing to happen to someone you know. She seemed a very nice woman and they looked like a really happy couple, always doing things together. They were very friendly with the other neighbours too."

Miss McGrath's brother, Michael, 30, a solicitor, said: "Everyone is very distressed. We are working closely with the police at the moment to try to catch who did this."

One neighbour said: "We went to dinner with Brian and Diane [Ms McGrath's parents] only last week. Everyone is very shocked by the news. They are a lovely family."

Detectives yesterday refused to speculate about any motive or comment on whether anybody was being questioned in connection with the incident.

Detective Superintendent David Gartside, who is in charge of the investigation, said: "We are still anxious to trace anyone who was in the vicinity of the Bramhall precinct on Friday, April 25, who may have seen anything suspicious."



Drinkers at the Victoria Tavern have been questioned

## Irish collectors trace stolen goods to Newark market

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

FRUSTRATED Irish collectors are raising with police in Britain rather than Ireland in the hope of retrieving some of the £5 million-worth of antiques stolen from the Republic every year.

They say they have "given up" on the Garda, which has neither the time nor resources to devote to the problem. Many of the stolen pieces end up on market stalls in Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Airdingly, West Sussex, within 48 hours. They fetch higher prices there than in Ireland.

Jeffrey Lefroy, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Irish Heritage Objects, said his organisation was dealing directly with police in Britain. He said: "The problem of furniture theft has reached epidemic proportions. We have no choice but to take action ourselves."

A member from the council travelled undercover as a buyer to the market in Newark. Assisted by Nottinghamshire police, he found a £5,000 Victorian clock stolen last year from an elderly couple in Co Kildare. The undercover buyer said: "The gardai are underpaid, worn out and so overstretched trying to deal with the drug gangs in Dublin that they have no time for the antiques problem."

Investigators believe most of the thefts are carried out by four gangs, who use networks of friends and relations in Britain to dispose of the stolen

goods. The gangs are highly mobile and knowledgeable about antiques.

Mr Lefroy set up the organisation two years ago after his Victorian home in Co Longford was robbed and £150,000 of Regency, Dutch and Italian furniture stolen. His 1740s Italian games table has been traced to Christie's, New York. It arrived there from Surrey, via an antiques dealer in Alabama.

The Garda said the gangs were difficult to track because they moved quickly from one area to another. Most thefts are concentrated on the east coast, where the gangs have ready access to the ports. Gardai are planning a meeting with British police to trace the antiques, and are trying to identify routes used by the gangs. Once stolen, the furniture is loaded on flat-bed lorries, vans and horse-boxes, transferred to container lorries and taken by ferry to Britain. Georgian pieces are the most lucrative, although garden furniture, particularly Victorian, is also profitable.

Charlie Hill, a former policeman and Risk Manager with Nordstern art insurance company in London, said: "I know of people in prison who watch the Antiques Road Show to educate themselves on what is valuable. Antiques are now seen as far less dangerous than drugs while still generating the same kind of income."

## Two youths arrested in Ulster over church fire

By Audrey Magee

TWO Protestant teenagers will appear in court today charged with an arson attack on a Roman Catholic church in Northern Ireland.

Their appearance at a special court in Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, comes after a weekend of mounting tension in the province. Three youths were injured in weekend riots and police yesterday stopped an Orange Order parade passing through a Catholic section of Belfast.

The youths, aged 18 and 19, face charges of burglary and of setting fire to St Nicholas's Church. The church is close to where the youths live in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. Five fires were lit in the church early on Saturday, destroying a large section of the interior and roof. It was the twelfth attack on a church this month. In Belfast, police used Land Rovers to prevent an Orange Order parade passing through the Catholic section of the Lower Ormeau Road. Up to 80 Orangemen protested and sang hymns at the police line, demanding to be allowed to pass through.

Three people were injured during rioting yesterday morning. A 13-year-old boy was treated in hospital for a cut above his left eye. He was hit by a plastic bullet fired by troops under attack from a crowd in Lurgan, Co Armagh. There were also clashes in Portadown, where two youths were injured.



Angharad Mair will feature in front of the cameras when she runs in the world championships in August

## TV presenter puts in marathon stint

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

UNTIL six years ago, Angharad Mair's running had been confined to the hockey pitch at school. Yesterday she learnt she had been selected to run the marathon for Britain in this summer's world athletics championships in Athens.

Mair's introduction to the marathon came, somewhat unexpectedly, with her job. The BBC Wales news and sport television presenter had gone for an interview with SAC in Cardiff, where she was told that the Welsh language station

was looking for something out of the ordinary. Mair replied that she was thinking of running a marathon. "It was a bit of a line, to be honest," she said. However, the channel took her at her word, offered her employment presenting a magazine programme, and assigned her to run the New York City Marathon. She finished in 3 hours 29 minutes.

Now nothing stands in the way of her 80 miles-a-week training. On Saturday, the day she heard of her selection, she managed two sessions, one before presenting the last, historic rugby union

match at Cardiff Arms Park, the second between evening news bulletins. She was to have lined up alongside Liz McColgan in Athens in August, but the country's leading marathon runner has decided not to compete.

Now one of the most recognisable faces in Wales, Mair, 35, gets some strange looks running round Cardiff with a baseball cap pulled down to her eyes and "full glam make-up. But if I get back late after reading the news, I'm not going to bother taking it all off."

Marathon squad, page 26

## Daylight rapist strikes in city park

By Des Burkinshaw

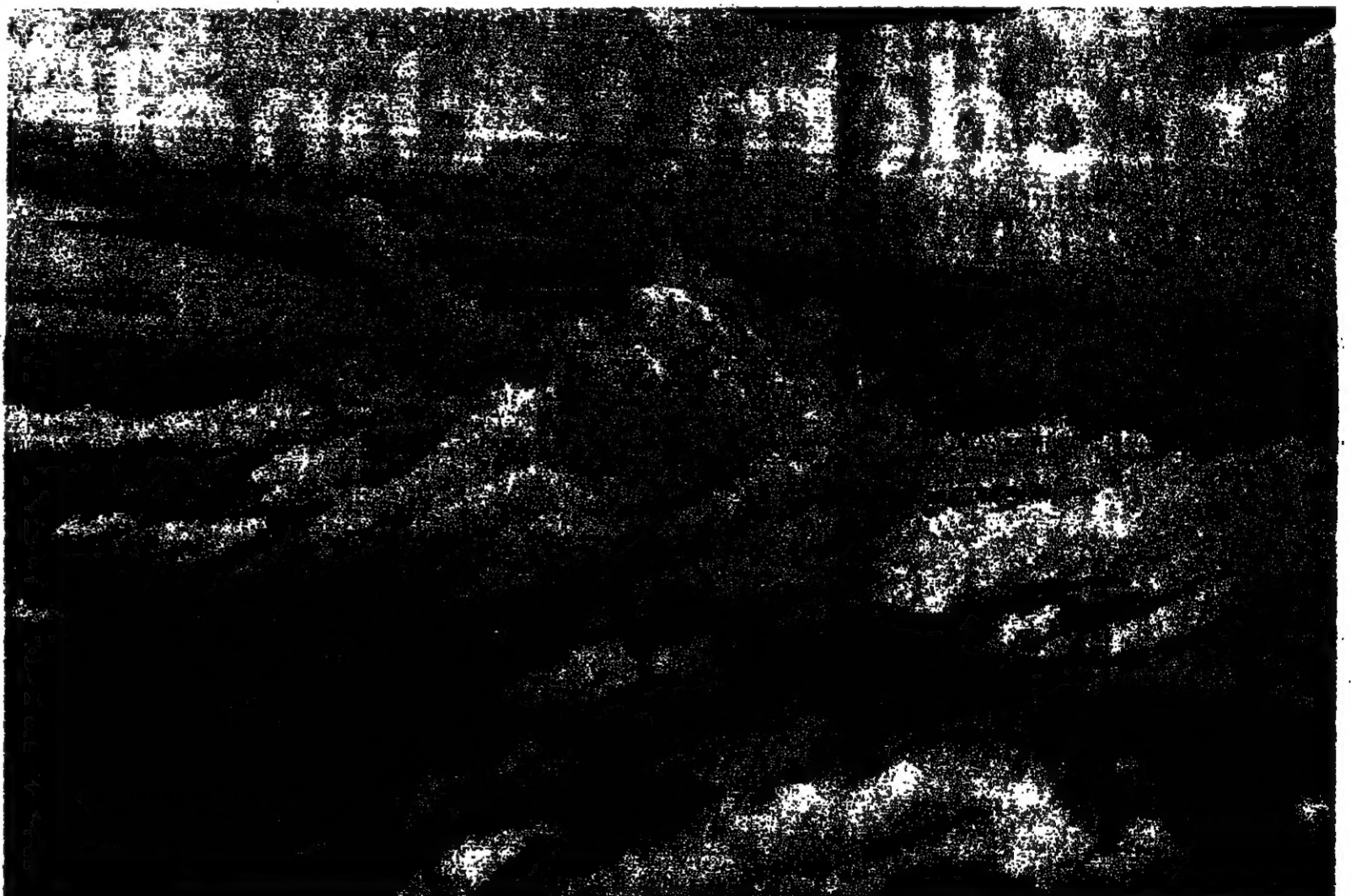
WOMEN are being warned not to walk alone in a Leeds city park until a daylight rapist has been caught. The man repeatedly raped a victim on Saturday afternoon while other people strolled near by.

The 31-year-old had been walking her Collie dog by Waterloo Lake in Roundhay Park at about 5pm. The man threatened her with a knife and dragged her down a steep bank to an old swimming pool where he assaulted her. When he heard other park users approaching, he dragged her into woodland and raped her. He ended his attack after 20 minutes and ran off, leaving his traumatised victim to raise the alarm.

Detective Inspector Mark Smith said: "She resisted as much as she dared but she was too scared for her safety to put up a serious fight. This man is very dangerous. It was a very determined attack. I think he had gone to the park for that purpose, and he was not scared off by other people being around."

"For the safety of females, my advice is to have safety in numbers when they are walking there. Until we find this individual, do not go walking alone."

The rapist was white, about 5ft 11ins, aged 17 to 25, with short, unkempt ginger hair and a wispy ginger beard or facial hair. He was wearing a baseball cap, a shiny blue bomber jacket and light blue jeans.



## Coming or going, you'll know the time.

It's easy to lose track of time at 60,000 feet, but not for the Rolex GMT-Master II. Developed to be used by intercontinental pilots, this watch shows the time in two time zones at a glance.

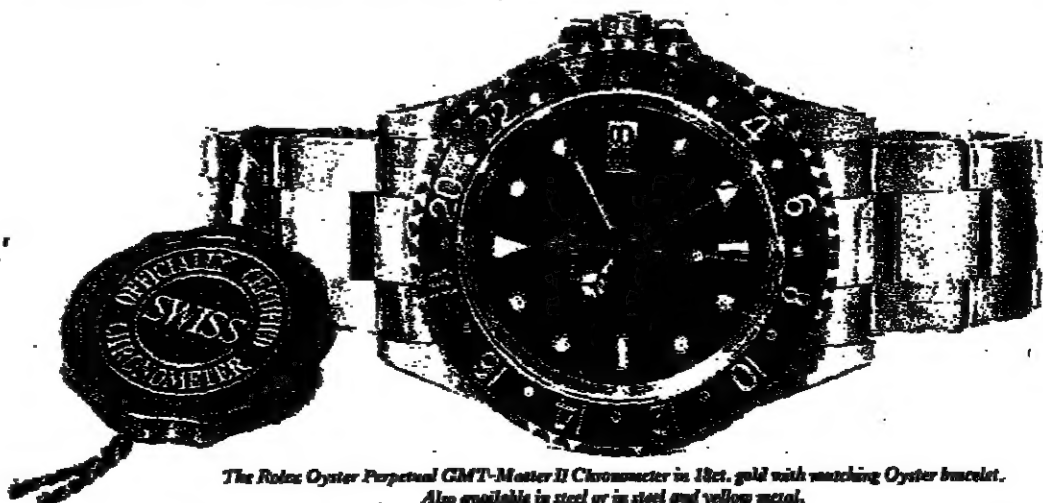
The GMT-Master II worn by Concorde Captain Steve Wand allows him to read London time with the conventional hour

and minute hands, and he can read New York time with the 24-hour hand and the clearly marked rotating bezel that is the hallmark of this classic design.

Says Captain Wand: "My GMT-Master II is like Concorde. When you settle on a design that is successful, you want to keep it."

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The Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II Chronometer in 18ct. gold with matching Oyster bracelet. Also available in steel or in steel and yellow metal.

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## Muslims hope to make Oxford a city of dreaming minarets

By Robin Young

MUSLIMS are planning to build a college combining Islamic and gothic styles in the heart of Oxford's university area. The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, of which the Prince of Wales is patron, is studying draft designs for a site neighbouring the Christ Church and Magdalen College deer park.

The centre, for about 100 fellows and students, would be designed by an Egyptian architect described as "Islamic in style". Abdel Wahed al-Wakil, who has built many mosques in the Middle East, is the leading Muslim architect based in

Britain. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has agreed to fund the building, so no expense is likely to be spared. Abdel Wahed al-Wakil's initial designs for the 1.66-acre site marry traditional Islamic motifs with the gothic typical of Oxford's other buildings.

The dome of the centre's prayer hall would echo that of the University Library's Radcliffe Camera. The mosque's minaret, with its Moroccan elements, is akin to the twin towers of All Souls College.

Kate Miller, the planning secretary of the Oxford Civic Society, said yesterday: "The style mixes gothic and Islamic

but then that is what makes Venice so beautiful." David Townsend, another society officer, said: "To my Western eye, it is not what I would call beautiful." Moira Haynes of the Oxford Preservation Trust, which may oppose the planning application, said the building would affect the area's architectural balance.

Mr al-Wakil, whose buildings include the Corniche mosque in Jeddah, is based in London. The studies centre is recognised by the university and is influential academically.

Leading article, page 21







THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 28 1997

## BMA backs sex education and calls for more funding

By Ian Murray and Emma Wilkins

SEX education is effective in delaying first-time intercourse, encouraging the use of condoms and reducing teenage pregnancy, the British Medical Association says today. Programmes advocating no sex before marriage have not worked, it adds.

In the first report of its kind from the BMA, it calls for sex education to be part of initial teacher training, and to be backed with more resources and research into effective methods. The survey found a need for specific guidance for parents on how to talk about sex with their children. Co-operation between school and home was the most effective way of teaching.

Three years ago a book giving teenagers advice on sex, called *Your Pocket Guide to Sex* and published by the Health Education Authority, was withdrawn after Brian Mawhinney, then health minister, condemned it as smutty.

The BMA says that sex education has to allow for different attitudes, values, home environment and religious, cultural or ethnic backgrounds.

Responsible teaching about homosexuality "is especially important to meet the needs of young people who may be growing up gay, lesbian or bisexual". This was necessary because of the risks to mental or physical health to which such children might be exposed by social isolation, bullying and lack of self-esteem.



Sex advice this 1994 book was withdrawn

The school can provide a neutral environment for advice and guidance where parents may be hostile to homosexuality.

The study, which collected evidence from doctors and analysed research by organisations such as the Sex Education Forum, says that the classroom is not a good place for staff or pupils to talk about their personal relationships, and advocates using case histories instead.

However, it says children need individual advice and support within the school. Those with problems should be encouraged to inform their parents but, if they refuse, the school should respect their confidentiality and find other support.

Valerie Riches, the director of Family and Youth Concern, said she was saddened but not surprised. "The BMA has

always fallen in with the sex education lobby.

"I really can't imagine what they mean by the responsible teaching of homosexuality. One would like them to teach what happens as a result of the abnormal practice of homosexuality — that is, the spread of HIV."

Mrs Riches said parents should be directly involved in sex education. "Youngsters are being taught in a moral vacuum that it's OK to have sex. I want to see them being taught that marriage is an ideal. Instead it's being suggested that marriage is just one of many options."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the report confirmed the evidence from schools, but doubted that all new teachers should be trained in sex education. "By no means all teachers will be involved in sex education. It is probably something best addressed through targeted in-service training."



Crippen's watch, letters and other related documents will be sold at Christie's

## Sale of watch recalls moment when time ran out for Crippen

By Robin Young

THE gilt pocket watch that the 20th century's most notorious murderer, bequeathed to his mistress, Ethel Le Neve, before he was hanged, is on sale this week.

Crippen murdered and dismembered his second wife, Cora, and tried to escape to the United States with his mistress. He became the first criminal to be apprehended by radio, when the captain of the liner on which he was fleeing became suspicious and alerted Scotland Yard.

The sale at Christie's on Wednesday also includes letters about the watch from Miss Le Neve to her friend Rex Manning, copies of Crippen's statement to the police, and a letter from him authorising his solicitor to sell all the belongings at his home. The watch is expected to fetch up to £2,000.

Miss Le Neve was acquitted of being an accessory to murder and, after Crippen's execution in 1910, left the country. She later returned to England and married a book-keeper, Stanley Smith, to



Crippen in the dock at the Old Bailey

whom she never revealed her identity.

She gave the watch to him as a wedding present, but when she died in 1962, aged over 80, she bequeathed it to Mr Manning, the only person with whom she shared the secret of her past.

Mr Manning described the watch as a "silent witness" in his records, which are being sold with the watch by the present owner, his nephew, who intends to donate the proceeds of the sale to leukemia research.

## Problem pupils must be tackled young, say heads

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MANY primary schools are passing on disciplinary problems to secondary schools, rather than tackling disruptive pupils at an age when their behaviour could be moderated, secondary head teachers claimed yesterday.

Peter Miller, the president of the Secondary Heads Association, said many of the most troublesome teenagers were set in their ways by the time they left primary school. But the procedure involved in securing extra help for children with behavioural problems was so lengthy that primary schools did not benefit unless they took action at an early age, he said.

All the teaching unions, at their spring conferences, have been concerned with the growing problem of indiscipline. Expulsions topped 13,000 for the first time this year, and schools have been given the right to impose longer suspensions in an attempt to halt the rise.

Mr Miller, in his presidential address to the association's conference in Torquay, said that procedures had to be streamlined and resources increased to enable the education system to cope with disruptive children. "I would also ask that our primary colleagues do not succumb to the temptation to defer dealing with difficult children on the grounds that they will be leaving their school soon."

John Sutton, the association's general secretary, said primary schools tended to contain troublesome pupils, rather than seeking outside help,

which was often scarce and difficult to obtain. "It is possible to do this when the pupil concerned is young, immature and fairly small, but not when they become strapping adolescents who may be bigger than their teachers."

Mr Sutton said the association was not criticising primary schools. "It is another manifestation of the shortage of resources which has depleted services such as education psychology."

But Liz Paver, the incoming president of the National Association of Head Teachers, which represents most primary school heads, said it was unfair to make primary schools responsible for tackling the problem without the necessary help.

"We must have more units where young children can go for a short period before being reintegrated into their schools," she said.

Ms Paver, the head teacher of Intake Primary School, in Doncaster, added: "We are pilloried in some quarters if we do seek help because people think primary schools ought to be able to handle young children. In fact, we face all the same problems as secondary schools, but on a smaller scale. Five-year-olds are quite capable of abusing teachers and throwing things at them."

Exclusions from primary school rose from 378 in 1991-92 to 1,445 in 1994-95, and are still rising. A survey by academics at Portsmouth University found that there had been an eight-fold rise in suspensions.

## Farmers back call to halt bird decline

By Robin Young

- A GOVERNMENT report blaming intensive farming and pesticides for much of the decline in Britain's bird population is likely to be welcomed by both the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the National Farmers' Union.
- The report, the outcome of five years' study by the Government's wildlife advisory bodies, notes that in 25 years tree sparrow numbers have fallen by almost nine tenths.
- Grey partridges by four fifths, turtle doves, bullfinches and song thrushes by three quarters, lapwings and skylarks by nearly two thirds, and blackbirds by more than two fifths.
- Ian Gardiner, of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday that farmers were already collaborating in conservation but that, if measures

conflicted with farming, they would have to be compensated. Chris Harbard, of the RSPB, agreed. He said that, for the first time, connections between particular pesticides and the decline of particular species of bird were appearing, but added: "At present farmers do not have enough incentives to make the changes that are needed."

A green way to save Britain's £100 million-a-year lettuce crop has been found by scientists on a Norfolk salt marsh, two years after a pesticide which protected the crop against the lettuce root aphid had to be withdrawn. The fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae*, which grows on the marsh, can kill up to 80 per cent of the aphids, according to Dr Dave Chandler.

## SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE

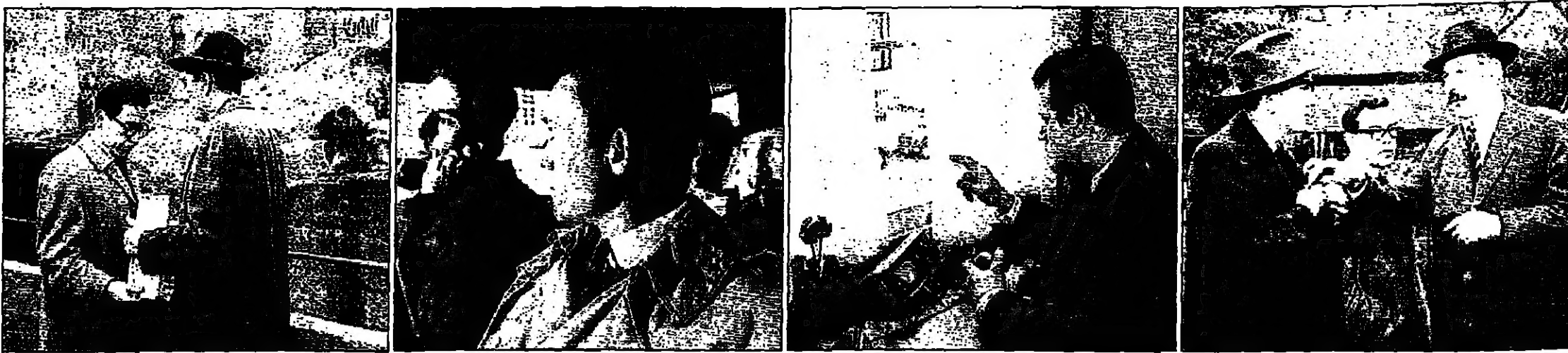
Chief Medical Officers' Warning  
1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine

SILK  
KUT

ULTRA

SERIOUSLY





Not quite James Bond: Viney, left, hands documents to Popov at London Zoo. But the alert chaps from counter-espionage are monitoring them by car and from behind net curtains, and the pair are nabbed

## How Cholmondeley-Warner saved the West



Harry Enfield in his black-and-white spoofs

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS all jolly hush-hush in its time: a top-secret spy film made for training Secret Service recruits. Now it has been declassified for sale as a video. Some shops may be unsure whether to file it under nostalgia, thriller or light entertainment.

The 60-minute film, *Persona Non Grata*, was made in 1964, at the height of the Cold War and two years after the first James Bond film, *Dr No*. Away from the public image of international tension and

■ Whitehall's Cold War training films are to be released on video. The first is closer to an Ealing Comedy than to James Bond

glamorous women, the secret reality features quintessential Englishmen speaking in the clipped tones of Harry Enfield's satirical characters Mr Cholmondeley-Warner and Mr Grayson, and includes a lowly defence clerk enduring unspoken difficulties in his friendship with a Russian.

Peter Steel, of the Central Office of Information, who

remembers the film being commissioned from his department 33 years ago, said that he had fought hard to have it declassified because of the educational and nostalgic value it would have today. The original documents accompanying the film said it was commissioned by the Treasury, but it was clearly destined for use by the secret

services. He said: "It was done as a drama because it's probably the most effective way of teaching anybody working in sensitive areas about standard, routine security procedures."

Shot in black and white on location in London and Windsor, on a budget of £20,000, *Persona Non Grata* tells the story of Cyril Viney, a friendless young man who is persuaded to steal secret documents from his uncaring boss at the Ministry of Defence. The persuader is a Russian diplomat, Nikolai Popov, who befriends Viney

and praises his poetry. When Viney invites Popov to dinner at his digs — his first guest for four years — he says: "I find it difficult to talk to some people... most people, in fact."

Popov asks Viney for a favour — a small matter about providing information on the *Polaris* fleet — and says he will be hurt if Viney's friendship is "the kind that takes but does not give... it would be very sad if something happened that would spoil a friendship that has come to mean so much to both of us".

Viney is seen handing over packages and microfilm in

meetings at London Zoo and St James's Park. Happily, the chaps from counter-espionage are on to them, and the West is saved.

*Persona Non Grata* is one of about 10,000 COI films transferred this month to the Film Images library for possible commercial use. The Crown retains copyright and the Treasury hopes to generate some income. Film Images hopes to release *Persona Non Grata* on video as a double bill with *The Lector*, another 1960s security film featuring a Russian spy giving a lecture about espionage.

## Doctors pay out £41m to patients

BY IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS won £41 million in compensation from doctors last year as the cost of claims against them rose 31 per cent on the previous year. With legal costs increasing to £15 million, litigation is now costing the profession £56 million, twice as much as it did five years ago.

The total bill in 1995 was £43 million and in 1994 £37 million. The average growth over the past five years has been 15 per cent per annum, but the number of claims is now rising more steeply, according to the annual report of the Medical Defence Union published today. Dr Michael Saunders, the chief executive, said all the evidence suggested the adverse trend of litigation against doctors would continue and that the sums awarded by the courts would increase.

Demand for help from the union are also rising sharply. There was a 10 per cent increase in calls to its 24-hour helpline last year, with 20,000 calls processed.

## Drug firm ready to cash in on colds



### MEDICAL BRIEFING

AN AVERAGE adult suffers the misery of a common cold three times a year. The sufferer's interest in any potential cure, or treatment to alleviate its symptoms, is matched by that of the pharmaceutical companies. If a company could find the cure for the common cold it would be the source of never-ending riches.

Reports suggest that a new nasal spray, manufactured by Boehringer Ingelheim and undergoing trials, offers the hope of preventing colds in some patients when the source of infection has been a rhinovirus, and reducing the symptoms in others. The spray acts by preventing the rhinovirus from attaching itself to cells in the nose, therefore either aborting, or lessening, the attack.

In the winter months, children who have recently started school on average catch a common cold once a fortnight. Spread of the cold viruses is either by inhalation of the virus which has been scattered in the atmosphere by coughing, sneezing and nose-blowing, or by hand-to-hand infection, after the infected hand has touched the

lips, scratched the nose, or rubbed the eyes. The virus induces the well-known symptoms of sneezing, a runny nose, sore throat, husky voice and possibly a cough.

There are certainly more than 95 different rhinoviruses, causing 30 or 40 per cent of common colds. The other large group of viruses responsible is the corona virus.

As people age, the exposure to colds they have had gives them more resistance to infection. In old age, by which time they will have been infected by a high proportion of the local viruses, catching a cold is comparatively rare.

However, catching a cold is potentially more dangerous in old age because chest complications become more likely. It is equally important to prevent a cold in groups of patients who could suffer similar problems because their immune systems are compromised by other diseases or the treatments for them. In children, asthma can be induced by a cold.

DR THOMAS  
STUTTAFORD

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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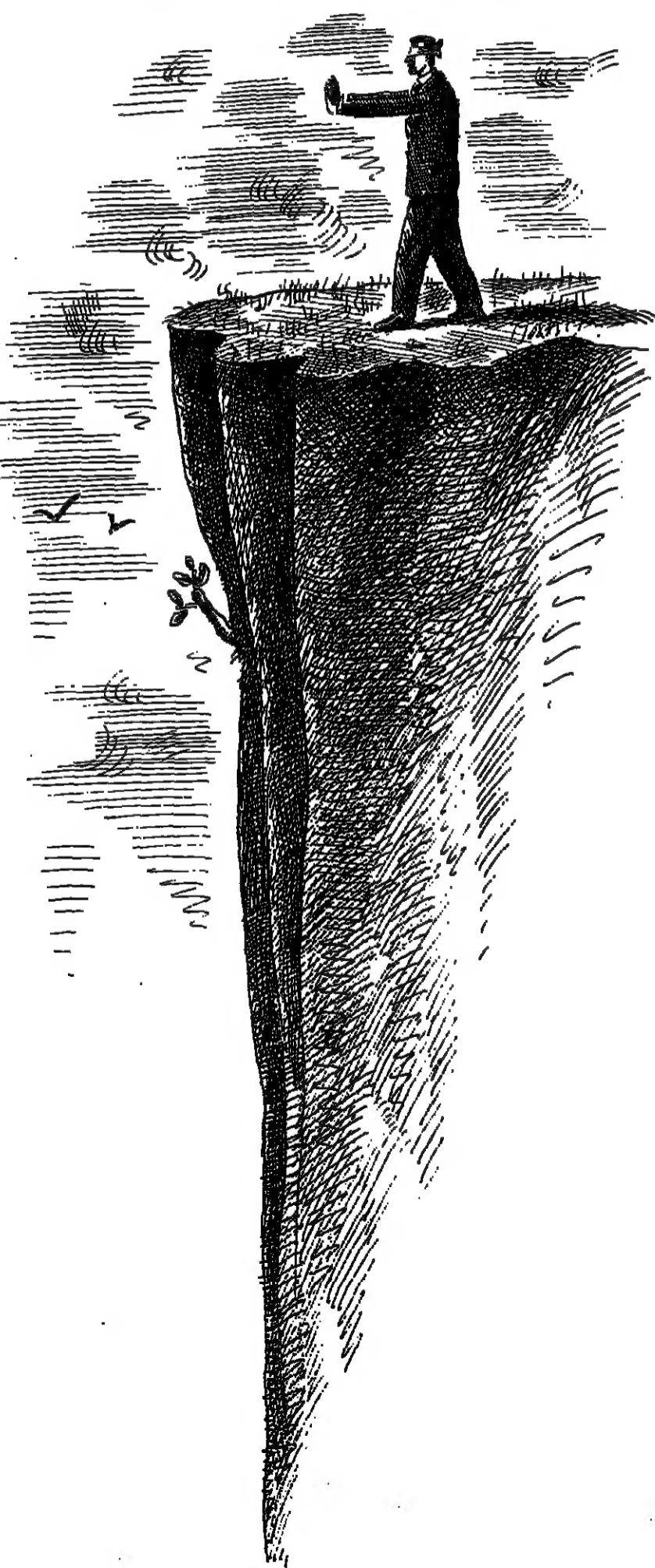
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## POLL DAY



Whitland train, 1997

## Minis 'traitor' predicted

Ken Clarke would have fought a very different Conservative campaign if he had been in the economy, the economy, the economy — and not the time from Europe. This was vividly illustrated on Friday on the main shopping street of Stirling, the highly marginal seat of Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary. There they were, the Europeans and the rising tide of the sceptic Right, dressed alike in full campaigning gear of Barbour, was about creating real jobs and making Britain competitive. Standing alongside him, however, Mr Forsyth told a group that the most important issue was Europe. The determination of many Tory candidates — and ministers — to fight the election on a European platform has made life increasingly uncomfortable for Mr Clarke. He no longer bothers to disguise his annoyance with attempts to

## European Clarke's

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**TV WATCH**  
**NICHOLAS**  
**WAPSHOTT**

# Politica bomba

Key votes are indicated

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**ELECTION TRAIL**

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As you can see, this class would benefit from some simple subtraction. Last year over a hundred thousand primary school children were in classes of thirty-six or more. To reduce class sizes we need more teachers. But instead recruitment is to be slashed by 17,800. School buildings are deteriorating. 94% of schools say their children have to share textbooks. Meanwhile 42% of 11 year olds are below the expected standard in maths. And half are below the expected standard in English. This government is running our education system into the ground. Does it really deserve another term?



Paid for by the UNISON General Political Fund

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# Party heavyweights fail to deliver knockout punchline



TV WATCH  
NICHOLAS  
WAPSHOTT

IT WAS good to see John Prescott back in front of the television cameras yesterday. At the beginning of the campaign he was deemed so accident prone, so capable of blurring out his own feelings rather than toe the party line, that he was called to a mystery coach tour of the parts of Britain that television people do not reach.

Now, it seems, the deputy leader of the Labour Party has served his time in the television wilderness and the Labour propaganda ministry in Millbank Tower has deemed that he may be trusted not to offer any hostages to fortune. So yesterday there was our Humberside hero in the BBC's *On the Record*

studio flanked by that other jungle beast Michael Heseltine and a pussycat, Alan Beith.

The American experience of television debates is that the confrontation between the vice-presidential nominees is more entertaining than the main event. So while Tony Blair sat talking to Sir David Frost and John Major underwent a mild interrogation on ITV, their deputies were slugging it out in a glimpse of the old politics that we have yet to see on television this time.

It was what Radio Luxembourg used to call a Battle of the Giants between two men who are loved by their supporters above all for their ability to hurl abuse at their opponents. Mr Heseltine may be smoother and use his hands a lot less than Mr Prescott, but he is every bit as much a street-fighter.

They have other things in common, starting with the belief that they should be the leader of their party. They both direct their remarks straight to the voters, not to their political peers, even less the broadcasters. They both conjure up the passionate politics that used to be played on our screens years ago, before every utterance was tested on a focus group before delivery. While Mr Heseltine combines the showmanship of Quintin Hogg (now Lord Hailsham) with

a fast and loose debate peppered with ad lib.

Considering the potential of the event, yesterday's ding-dong was a disappointment, more a dust-up than a punch-up. The wit, what there was of it, was weak. When Mr Prescott asked Mr Heseltine, "how can you say that?" he replied, "Easy, I just hope." And when Mr Heseltine tugged Mr Beith with "we all know there isn't going to be a Liberal government", he replied, "There isn't going to be a Conservative Government by the look of it." Not much on paper, perhaps, but the studio audience fell about.

No, the most telling thing was that Hezza — despite his heart

## Political armies move to bombard the marginals

Key voters are targeted by mail, phone and video, writes Andrew Pierce

IN the closing days of the campaign, all three major parties make no secret of the fact that they will be devoting all their energies to courting voters in about 90 marginal constituencies who will determine the colour of the new government.

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have begun a blitz on the seats which hold the key to victory, with videos, posters, flags, telephone calls, personalised letters and personal visits. A video message from Mr Blair is being sent today to hundreds of first-time voters in 90 marginal seats as the last stage of Labour's Operation Victory swings into action.

The video tactic, borrowed from the United States, marks the beginning of the most crucial period at the end of the longest campaign since the war.

John Major will be at the forefront of the Tory effort with more high-profile walkabouts and speeches on his soapbox. But no one will be able to match the physical effort being expended by Mr Ashdown, who will travel by helicopter from Edinburgh to Land's End, spending 30 minutes "in constituencies" along the way.

Lord Hailsham of Chichester, the party's campaign manager, said: "We will see probably the most strenuous cross-country of the whole of Britain that we have ever seen from a party leader in the immediate run-up to the election."

Labour's video, *Do It*, has been produced by Bob Geldof's Planet 24 company and is designed to appeal to voters aged between 18 to 23. More than 100,000 copies of the film — shot in the key marginal of Gloucester — are being distributed.

Labour's new colour, purple, will be ever present as candidates have been sent 200,000 paper hats, posters and small flags declaring: "Vote now. Britain deserves better."

The party's codeword for the last five days, GOTV — Get out the Vote — has been unveiled by Peter Mandelson, Labour's chief strategist. He has targeted 72,000 voters in the 90 marginal seats who have been identified as "weak Labour", "positive Labour", or "squeezed Liberal Democrat

LABOUR TARGETS					
Rank	Constituency	Majority	Swing to gain	Swing achieved	Holdings
1	Vale of Glamorgan	0.02%	15	Con	
2	Hayes & Harlington	0.05%	44	Con	
3	Leicester & Leicestershire	0.12%	125	LibDem	
4	Stockport	0.13%	180	Con	
5	Croydon North	0.13%	180	Con	
6	Stirling	0.28%	238	Con	
7	Coventry	0.31%	242	Con	
8	Blackpool South	0.34%	284	Con	
9	Luton South	0.52%	532	Con	
10	Edmonton	0.63%	593	Con	
11	Bury South	0.67%	728	Con	
12	Preseli Pembrokeshire	0.68%	603	Con	
13	Doncaster	0.75%	690	Con	
14	Lancashire North West	0.79%	666	Con	
15	Belfast & South	0.82%	745	Con	
16	Plymouth Sutton	1.01%	1050	Con	
17	Amber Valley	1.08%	1283	Con	
18	Middlesbrough & Cleveland	1.25%	1401	Con	
19	Barnstaple & Tawton	1.42%	1675	Con	
20	Derbyshire South	1.54%	1947	Con	
21	Harlow	1.58%	1687	Con	
22	Midham & Morden	1.70%	1734	Con	
23	Cardiff	1.85%	1850	Con	
24	Edinburgh	1.92%	1780	Con	
25	Leicester East	1.92%	736	LibDem	
26	Northampton	1.98%	2270	Con	
27	City of Chester	2.08%	2380	Con	
28	Chichester	2.08%	2380	Con	
29	Sheffield	2.25%	2646	Con	
30	Ilford South	2.41%	2630	Con	
31	Warrington South	2.45%	2753	Con	
32	East	2.46%	3054	Con	
33	Sheffield Central	2.46%	2177	Con	
34	Brighton Pavilion	2.53%	2630	Con	
35	Coventry South	2.55%	2904	Con	
36	Kingwood	2.55%	3340	Con	
37	Sheffield	2.60%	3210	Con	
38	Elmet	2.60%	3261	Con	
39	Wirral	2.80%	2947	Con	
40	Cardiff North	3.11%	2989	Con	
41	Warrington	3.11%	3529	Con	
42	Tynemouth	3.17%	3629	Con	
43	Leicester North	3.28%	3536	Con	
44	Redditch	3.39%	3287	Con	
45	Sheffield North	3.49%	3469	Con	
46	Sheffield South	3.50%	4127	Con	
47	Sheffield North East	3.58%	4067	Con	
48	Warrington	3.63%	4376	Con	
49	Sheffield North West	3.77%	4478	Con	
50	Sheffield Central	3.77%	4478	Con	
51	Sheffield North East	3.91%	3985	Con	
52	Sheffield North West	4.00%	4678	Con	
53	Sheffield North	4.02%	4618	Con	
54	Sheffield North	4.04%	4794	Con	
55	Sheffield North	4.12%	4291	Con	
56	Sheffield North	4.21%	4444	Con	
57	Sheffield North	4.25%	4444	Con	

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TARGETS					
Rank	Constituency	Majority	Swing to gain	Swing achieved	Holdings
1	Brecon and Radnorshire	0.15%	130	Con	
2	Portsmouth	0.23%	242	Con	
3	Oldham & Saddleworth	0.49%	559	Con	
4	Hazell Grove	0.85%	928	Con	
5	Sheff Hallam	1.12%	1227	Con	
6	Corby	1.19%	995	Con	
7	Sheff Hallam	1.44%	1645	Con	
8	Cardiff	2.25%	1898	PC	
9	Sheff Hallam	2.80%	3236	Con	
10	Sheff Hallam	2.71%	3271	Con	
11	Sheff Hallam	2.76%	3063	Con	
12	Sheff Hallam	2.82%	3154	Con	
13	Sheff Hallam	2.85%	3236	Con	
14	Sheff Hallam	3.25%	3380	Lab	
15	Sheff Hallam	3.58%	4251	Con	
16	Sheff Hallam	4.18%	4291	Con	

crats". Any voters in those categories could open their front door to be confronted by Mr Blair, John Prescott and other members of the shadow cabinet. The party's 190 MPs who are defending their seats will be descending on

which declined to discuss its strategy, will depend heavily on the 250 professional constituency agents to try to ensure their efforts are targeted on the right seats.

They are being supervised by regional and Conservative Central Office. The marginals have been allocated an experienced MP, financial aid, and supporters from neighbouring safe seats.

The Conservatives rely on direct mailshots and telephone canvassing to target switch voters. Tailored messages are being sent to first-time voters and waverers from the Prime Minister and the local candidate.

Grassroot supporters in safe seats such as Kensington and Chelsea will call thousands of targeted voters in seats as far away as Stirling. Cut-glass southern accents are deemed not to be a disadvantage in the effort to garner support in the industrial heartlands to the North.

For the Conservatives, the technique has an added advantage for its increasingly immobile army of workers, whose average age is 64. "Their knees simply will not work any more," said one former Tory minister defending a marginal. "They can put in more work on the end of a telephone."

Central Office has sent letters to thousands of shareholders in privatised utilities in the marginals to warn them of the danger of Labour's windfall tax. Married couples in Middle England seats have also been sent details of proposed Tory tax breaks.

The Conservative Party has once again mined the rich seam of two million expatriates who are eligible to vote. At least two marginals, Vale of Glamorgan and Bristol North West, held last time by 19 and 45 votes respectively, are believed to have stayed in Conservative hands at the last election because of the votes of Conservatives Abroad.

The Tory party has left nothing to chance. It even issued proxy forms to crews on the BT Global Challenge race to distribute to would-be supporters in South Africa. Labour has struck back but has amassed only about 1,500 would-be supporters, compared with 20,000 potential names for the Tories.



Michael Forsyth is 21 points behind Labour

ive support, particularly in Edinburgh Pentlands. Similar polls in 1992 predicted that Rifkind and Forsyth would lose their seats but they managed to hold on.

So Sir James and his "rabble army" battle on, with



Sir James Goldsmith addressing the press while out canvassing in Roehampton, southwest London, yesterday

## Fighting to the end and spending their way to triumphant defeat

SOME £20 million will have been spent, but the rabble has barely been roused. Nationally, the Referendum Party is registering about 4 per cent in the opinion polls.

Sir James Goldsmith blames the BBC, whose lack of coverage of the party "makes Albania look like a superb democracy". And, despite a High Court challenge, the party has been given just one election broadcast.

But the Referendum Party does not have to be in the running for seats to unsettle the Tories. It merely has to win enough votes from disaffected Conservatives to let in opposition candidates.

Sir James had thought that this threat would be enough to persuade John Major to accede to his party's demand for a general referendum on Europe. He still thinks that the Prime Minister might just do so before Thursday. If Mr Major did, Sir James would have to throw in the towel and ask his supporters to return to the Tory fold.

Labour, meanwhile, could be wrong-footed: if Tony Blair matched the Prime Minister's offer, it would look like the most desperate "me-too" gesture of the campaign.

Mr Major does have a record, when cornered, of taking his opponents by surprise. The leadership election he called in 1995 was a classic example. He might calculate that it is too late in the campaign for Kenneth Clarke to make trouble. And the move could allow him to claw back a fair number of seats.

It could, however, also look panicky. And it would not sit comfortably with Mr Major's campaign so far, which seems to have been aimed more at posterity than the present. Had the Prime Minister wanted to be bold on Europe, he could have decided to rule out joining a single currency in the next Parliament. But he chose to stick with "wait-and-see".

So Sir James and his "rabble army" battle on, with

The Referendum Party does not have to threaten to take seats in order to achieve its principal objective of a referendum on Europe, writes Mary Ann Sieghart

candidates fighting very individual campaigns. In Folkestone, the 200-keeper John Aspinall is standing for the Referendum Party against Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, on an "English nationalist" ticket. Quite what this entails is unclear, but Mr Aspinall delights in dividing his constituents into Angles, Saxons and Jutes. He thinks Mr Howard has a 50-50 chance of losing his seat.

The Referendum Party claims that its areas of relative strength are in the South East, the South West and East

Anglia, outside the big conurbations. Sir James's pursuit of Putney is somewhat quixotic; he would probably have done better in Richmond, his own constituency, which is less urban and more affluent. In Putney, such support as he is winning has come equally from Labour and Conservative, which is good news for his Tory opponent, David Mellor.

Sir James's style is far from that of the ordinary politician. On his rare forays to the doorstep he needs little encouragement to launch into a

ten-minute soliloquy about how opposition to Chancellor Kohl is growing in Lower Saxony. His speeches are analytical and discursive, with only the occasional lapse into almost biblical language. "You will have great convulsions," he said on Friday night, "if monetary union goes ahead."

At a public meeting in Maidstone, Sir James warned his supporters that this Thursday was their "last chance to save Britain". These remaining few days are also Sir James's last chance to force the Tory party into calling a referendum. If it did, he and his supporters would have achieved their purpose and could pack up and go. But this would seem a somewhat bathetic end to the billionaire's campaign.

## Three senior Tories risk losing seats in Scotland

By Shirley English

SCOTTISH Conservatives are banking on a poor Labour turnout and a surge of support from floating voters to save three senior Cabinet ministers. The admission follows ICM polls in Scotland on Sunday and The Observer yesterday which reveal that Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, Ian Lang, Trade Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, are all heading for defeat.

According to the polls, both

Mr Forsyth and Mr Rifkind are popular with their constituents with more than 50 per cent saying they are "good MPs". But in Stirling Mr Forsyth is trailing Labour's Anne McGuire by 21 points, and Mr Rifkind is eight points behind Labour's Lynda Clark in Edinburgh Pentlands. In 1992 Mr Forsyth won by only 703 votes, and even without the swing to Labour that is now a national 236 because of boundary changes.

Fewer than a third of Mr Lang's constituents think he is

a good MP, 47 per cent say he is bad, and the poll puts Alasdair Morgan of the SNP 11 points ahead.

A defeat on such a scale would make it hard to find a credible Scottish Tory shadow cabinet to scrutinise Labour's devolution plans. But yesterday the party was playing down the significance of the poll, claiming it was unclear whether it accounted for undecided voters.

Privately, party sources also said the forecasts would galvanise wavering Conserva-

## Blair has it all sewn up - on paper

PRESSWATCH

BRIAN  
MacARTHUR

THE *News of the World* ensured at least one landslide victory for Tony Blair yesterday by following the lead of its sister paper, *The Sun*, and endorsing him as the "Man for the New Millennium".

The *News of the World* has sales of more than 4.5 million (and nearly 12 million readers), and its backing for Blair means that five national Sunday newspapers, with sales of 9.6 million, have backed new Labour, against four, with sales of 5.5 million, which have backed the Tories. Research by MORI shows that seven in ten *News of the World*

readers — more than eight million — intend to vote for either Labour or the Liberal Democrats.

The newspapers which have opted for the Tories are *The Mail on Sunday*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Express on Sunday* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. According to MORI, only *The Sunday Times* was "voting"

against its readers, more than half of whom intend to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat, although readers of *The Mail on Sunday* are almost evenly split.

Opting for Labour are two of its traditional supporters, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, as well as *The Observer* and the *Independent on Sunday*, both of which also advised readers on where to vote for the Liberal Democrats would help to oust the Tories. There is a big anti-Tory majority among readers of all five Sunday newspapers backing Labour, with 88 per cent of

*Observer* readers and 85 per cent of *Independent on Sunday* readers intending to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat. Several national dailies have still to declare their allegiance, although *The Sun* and *The Mirror* are backing Blair and will almost certainly be joined by *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and *The Express* seem equally certain to endorse the Tories. The most interesting endorsements of the week will be from *The Times* and *Financial Times*, neither of which have yet declared their position.

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Barclays	12.9%	£114.58	£5,504.64		
NetWest	12.9%	£112.78	£5,413.44		

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The question of European integration and monetary union divides all the major parties and for many voters



Hasting into battle: led by John Redwood, with Michael Portillo following close behind, the Tory Eurosceptics deliver a mortal blow to John Major, who is flanked by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke

## Who the Eurosceptic should back to give Brussels one in the eye

EUROSCEPTICS face a difficult choice. Both main party leaders have stolen John Bull's clothes. One has even pinched his dog. Does either deserve his vote? What is the right choice for the sceptical voter, who believes that Europe is the big issue and wants to prevent further erosions of sovereignty?

Voting for one of the fringe parties, such as Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party or the United Kingdom Independence Party, may provide emotional release for sceptics but will not, in itself, help to shape the Parliament and government which will take the important decisions. In Putney, where Sir James is standing, and Reigate, where the former Tory MP Sir George Gardiner is his candidate, they are better choices than any alternative but still marginal to the bigger battle.

However, neither Eurosceptics nor Europhiles can be absolutely confident that Britain's potential prime ministers deserve their trust. John Major has huffed and puffed before only to let the House down, while Tony Blair argues that there are "formidable obstacles" to Britain entering economic and monetary union, but does not produce one that is a matter of personal principle.

The Conservatives are certainly more sceptical. John Major would keep the veto in areas where Tony Blair would surrender it, and he would stay out of the social chapter. Yet there are some Tory candidates who, if elected, would work more energetically than many Labour members to advance integration.

For the voter who considers Europe the decisive issue, there are several clear choices. The near-certainty of a Labour government makes them clearer. Sceptics should first support any Labour candidate who is an opponent of integration. The bigger the awkward squad behind Mr Blair, the

John Bull may want to defend Britain's cherished sovereignty at all costs, but backing fringe parties with little hope of power is a waste of his vote. *Times* writers analyse where his loyalties should lie

less likely he is to pursue a federalist line. If the Tory rival is an explicit sceptic, it may be tempting to back him, but a sceptic tying Tony's hands is worth two in the Tory bush.

Where the opposition candidate's views are unknown, then sceptics should enthusiastically support a Tory candidate who has either explicitly ruled out the single currency or shown himself to be a consistent opponent of integration. In those cases where the Labour candidate is explicitly integrationist, sceptics should also vote Tory. That will be all the easier if the Tory is, as many are, a principled sceptic. In those seats where the Conservative candidate is actively in favour of further integration, then sceptics should vote against him or her, even if the opposition candidate is pro-European. The targeting of Tory Europhiles may seem arbitrary, even perverse, particularly where Liberal Democrats stand to gain. However, the Commons will be just as Europhile whether the Tory or Liberal Democrat candidate in North Dorset wins, but if the Tory loses the Tory party as a whole will become more sceptical.

For the purposes of this guide, the party best placed to defeat Tory Europhiles is identified. It is normally the nearest challenger, but where Labour is in third place and only 3,000 behind the Liberal Democrat, then Labour is

preferred. That reflects the advantage that Labour has in the polls. Except to stop a Tory Europhile, no sceptic should vote for a Liberal Democrat other than Nick Harvey, or a nationalist. In Northern Ireland, sceptical voters should support the sitting, or sole, Unionist.

The *Times* has compiled four lists of Tory Eurosceptics, Tory Europhiles, Labour Eurosceptics and Labour Europhiles. The lists cannot be exhaustive. Some names will have been omitted, but the *Times* team has made strenuous efforts to ensure that it is accurate. A clearly expressed position on either side of the debate qualified candidates for inclusion, whether through membership of specific organisations such as the European

Movement, or statements of belief. All those listed as pro-European go beyond a preference for pragmatic co-operation and have taken up positions in support of a further transfer of powers. Thus, Sir Michael Shersby, who as a Tory MP voted for the Maastricht treaty, is not classified as a Europhile, even though as a backbencher he had the opportunity to rebel, because he has not associated himself with any Europhile body. Margaret Daly, the Conservative candidate in Weston-super-Mare, is included as Europhile, as a supporter of the European Movement, Conservative Group for

Europe and Action Centre for Europe.

The waters have, inevitably, been muddied by electoral calculations. The lure of support from the millionaire Paul Sykes and from voters has wrung sceptical words from some Tory candidates for the first time. But some have attacked the single currency with a feather duster. Some claim only to be "not persuaded" of the advantages of a single currency. That should not persuade the voter. A clear and ringing "No" such as that offered by Alan Clark in Kensington is a better guarantee for the sceptic. The list below excludes Tory candidates whose opposition appears opportunistic.

On Labour's side, it has been difficult to identify the true position of candidates because those asked for their view on Europe have referred inquirers to Millbank, the party's communications headquarters.

Evidence has been used to classify some of those who have already served in Parliament but, inevitably, it cannot be comprehensive. In constituencies where there is no candidate with an identifiable position on Europe, no recommendation can be made.

Even in those seats where a recommendation is made, voters may consider other factors important. Although Adrian Rogers is the sceptical choice in Exeter, his outspoken views on homosexuality may be an insuperable barrier to some. Support for Jeremy Corbyn in Islington North will help to maintain a sceptical voice in Labour but defenders of parliamentary government may balk at voting for a candidate sympathetic to Irish republicanism.

Ultimately, each voter must weigh different considerations in the balance, but for John Bull, anxious to make his voice count, the information below may help. He cannot say that his dog did not bark.

### THE DIEHARD FORCES OF RESISTANCE



Alan Clark with wife Jane: his ringing "No" to the single currency is a good guarantee to the sceptical voter



Against integration: Dame Angela Rumbold, David Heathcoat Amory, Michael Portillo, and Michael Howard

## Portillo and Howard lead the fightback

THE following Conservative candidates deserve the support of Eurosceptic voters. They are listed alphabetically by constituency. They have either made a clear and credible statement of opposition to the single currency or otherwise shown themselves consistent opponents of integration. **Aberavon** — Peter Harper; **Aldershot** — Gerald Howarth; **Aldridge-Bromwich** — Richard Shepherd; **Alyn and Deeside** — Tim Roberts; **Altrincham and Sale West** — Graham Brady; **Arundel and South Downs** — Howard Flight; **Ayr** — Phil Gallie; **Basildon** — John Baron; **Basingstoke** — Andrew Hunter; **Beckenham** — Piers Merchant; **Beverly and Holderness** — James Cran; **Bexhill and Battle** — Charles Wardle; **Beckenham and Crayford** — David Evennett; **Billerica** — Teresa Gorman; **Birmingham Yardley** — Anne Johnson; **Blaby** — Andrew Robathan; **Blackpool South** — Richard Booth; **Bognor Regis and Littlehampton** — Nick Gibbs; **Bolton North-East** — Robert Wilson; **Boston and Skegness** — Sir Richard Body; **Brent North** — Sir Rhodes Boyson; **Brent South** — Stewart Jackson; **Brentford and Isleworth** — Nirj Deva; **Brigg and Goole** — Donald Stewart; **Bristol East** — Eddie Vaizey; **Bristol North-West** — Mich-

ael Stern; **Bromley and Chislehurst** — Eric Forth; **Bromsgrove** — Julie Kirkbride; **Brombourne** — Marion Roe; **Buckingham** — John Bercow; **Burton** — Sir Ivan Lawrence; **Bury St Edmunds** — David Ruffley; **Cambridgeshire South** — Andrew Lansley; **Cambridge South-East** — James Paice; **Canterbury** — Julian Brazier; **Ceredigion** — Felix Aubel; **Chingford and Woodford Green** — Iain Duncan Smith; **Chorley** — Den Dover; **Christchurch** — Chris Chope; **Cleethorpe** — Michael Brown; **Clwyd South** — Boris Johnson; **Clwyd West** — Rod Richards; **Colchester** — Stephen Shakespeare; **Colne Valley** — Graham Riddick; **Congleton** — Ann Winterton; **Cornwall North** — Nigel Linacre; **Cornwall South-East** — Warwick Lightfoot; **Coventry North-West** — Paul Bartlett; **Crawley** — Josephine Crabb; **Croydon North** — Ian Martin; **Dartford** — Bob Dunn; **Derby South** — Javed Arain; **Don Valley** — Clare Gledhill; **Dorset West** — Oliver Letwin; **Dover** — David Shaw; **Ealing North** — Harry Greenway; **Easington** — Jason Hollands; **Edinburgh North and Leith** — Ewen Stewart; **Edmonton** — Ian Twinn; **Eddfield North** — Mark Field; **Enfield Southgate** — Michael Portillo; **Epston and Ewell** — Sir Archie Hamilton; **Essex**

**North** — Bernard Jenkin; **Exeter** — Dr Adrian Rogers; **Fareham** — Sir Peter Lloyd; **Finchley and Golders Green** — John Marshall; **Fife Central** — Jacob Rees-Mogg; **Folkestone** — Michael Howard; **Gainsborough** — Edward Leigh; **Gower** — Alun Cairns; **Gravesend** — Jacques Arnold; **Great Yarmouth** — Michael Carris; **Harrogate** — Norman Lamont; **Harwich** — Iain Sproat; **Havant** — David Willets; **Hemel Hempstead** — Rob Jones; **Hitchin and Harpenden** — Peter Lilley; **Holborn and St Pancras** — Julian Smith; **Horsham** — Francis Maude; **Houghton and Washington East** — Philip Booth; **Ilford North** — Vivian Bendall; **Inverness** — East, Nairn and Lochaber — Mary Scanlon; **Isle of Wight** — Andrew Turner; **Islington South and Finsbury** — David Berens; **Islwyn** — Russell Walters; **Jarrow** — Mark Allatt; **Kensington and Chelsea** — Alan Clark; **Leeds Central** — Edward Wild; **Leicester South** — Chris Heaton-Harris; **Leigh** — Ed Young; **Lewisham East** — Philip Hollombe; **Lichfield** — Michael Fabricant; **Liverpool Wavertree** — Kit Malthouse; **Louth and Horncastle** — Sir Peter Tapsell; **Ludlow** — Christopher Gull; **Luton North** — David Senior; **Mac-**

**clesfield** — Nicholas Winterdon; **Maidstone and the Weald** — Ann Widdecombe; **Malden and East Chelmsford** — John Whittingdale; **Manchester Central** — Simon McIlwaine; **Manchester Gorton** — Guy Senior; **Mansfield** — Tim Frost; **Milton Keynes South-West** — Barry Legg; **Midham and Morden** — Dame Angela Rumbold; **Mole Valley** — Sir Paul Beresford; **Monmouth** — Roger Evans; **New Forest East** — Julian Lewis; **New Forest West** — Desmond Swayne; **Northampton North** — Tony Marlow; **Norwich North** — Robert Kinghorn; **Normanton** — Fiona Bulmer; **Oldham East and Saddleworth** — John Hudson; **Orpington** — John Horam; **Oxford East** — Jonathan Djanogly; **Pearth and the Border** — David Maclean; **Peterborough** — Jackie Foster; **Pontefract and Castleford** — Adrian Flook; **Poplar and Canning Town** — Benet Steinberg; **Poole** — Robert Syms; **Portsmouth South** — David Martin; **Pudsey** — Peter Bone; **Rayleigh** — Dr Michael Clark; **Reading East** — John Watts; **Reading West** — Nick Bennett; **Regent's Park and Kensington North** — Paul McGuinness; **Ribble Valley** — Nigel Evans; **Richmond** — William Hague; **Rochford**

**and Southend East** — Sir Teddy Taylor; **Rother Valley** — Steven Stanbury; **Rotherham** — Simon Gordon; **Rugby and Kenilworth** — James Pawsey; **Ruislip-Northwood** — John Wilkinson; **Runcy-med and Weybridge** — Philip Hammond; **Rutland and Melton** — Alan Duncan; **Salisbury** — Robert Key; **Salford** — Elliot Bishop; **Scarborough and Whitby** — John Sykes; **Scunthorpe** — Martyn Fisher; **Sevenoaks** — Michael Fallon; **Sheffield Central** — Martin Hess; **Sheffield Hillsborough** — David Nuttall; **Shipley** — Sir Marcus Fox; **Shropshire North** — Owen Patterson; **Sittingbourne and Sheppey** — Sir Roger Moate; **South Holland and Deepings** — John Hayes; **South Shields** — Mark Hoban; **Southampton Itchen** — Peter Fleet; **Staffordshire Moorlands** — Dr Andrew Ashworth; **Southend West** — David Amess; **Spelthorne** — David Wilshire; **St Ives** — William Rodgers; **Stafford** — David Cameron; **Staffordshire Moorlands** — Dr Andrew Asworth; **Stirling** — Michael Forsyth; **Stoke-on-Trent North** — Christopher Day; **Stone** — Bill Cash; **Stourbridge** — Warren Hawksley; **Stroud** — Roger Knapman; **Suffolk Central and North Ipswich** — Michael Lord; **Sutton and Cheam**

**— Lady Olga Maitland; Swindon North** — Guy Opperman; **Taunton** — Neil Hamilton; **Tayside North** — Bill Walker; **Teignbridge** — Patrick Nicholls; **Telford** — Bernard Gentry; **Tewkesbury** — Lawrence Robertson; **Thames South** — Jonathan Aitken; **Tiverton and Honiton** — Angela Browning; **Torbay** — Rupert Allason; **Totnes** — Anthony Steen; **Tunbridge Wells** — Archie Norman; **Twickenham** — Toby Jessel; **Tyne and Wear** — Martin Callanan; **Tyne Bridge** — Adrian Lee; **Upminster** — Sir Nicholas Bonsor; **Vale of Glamorgan** — Walter Sweeney; **Wansbeck** — Paul Green; **Wandsworth** — Mark Prisk; **Warley** — Christopher Pincher; **Waverley** — David Porter; **Wellington** — Sir Peter Fry; **Wells** — David Heathcoat-Amory; **Welwyn Hatfield** — David Evans; **Westmorland and Lonsdale** — Tim Collins; **West Bromwich East** — Brian Malsb; **Wigan** — Mark Loveday; **Wiltshire North** — James Gray; **Wokingham** — John Redwood; **Wolverhampton South-West** — Nick Budgen; **Woodspring** — Dr Liam Fox; **Worcestershire West** — Michael Spicer; **The Wrekin** — Peter Bruinvels; **Yeovil** — Nicholas Cambrook; **Yorkshire East** — John Townend.

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Friend or foe: Robin Cook and John Prescott lead the sceptic charge against Tony Blair, who is shielded by Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson. In Opposition, Labour has subdued its historic hostility to Europe

#### ENTHUSIASTS WHO EMBRACE THE UNION



Peter Temple-Morris



Ian Taylor



Sir Edward Heath



Kenneth Clarke



Jane Ellison, the Conservative candidate for Barnsley East and Mexborough

## Continental drift opens both parties' fault lines

A free vote on monetary union is far from being a Eurosceptic lifeline

BOTH Britain's main parties are broad churches, but they are built on the treacherous ground where continental plates meet. Although the Tory party's splits on Europe are more visible, prompting Tim Renton, the former Chief Whip, to call the issue his party's "San Andreas Fault", Labour too has its divisions.

The hard decisions necessary in Government, and the fragility of John Major's majority, have ensured greater attention is paid to Tory fault lines. The Tories have grown restive while Labour, hungry for power, has suppressed its old appetite for internal argument.

The Conservatives have become identified with the feuding which was once Labour's curse. The more significant change, however, has been the transformation in the strength of the dominant factions in each party. The most impor-

tant continuity has been the preservation of an establishment majority in favour of ever closer union. Whatever the election result, the Commons is still on course to produce a broadly Europhile majority.

The Labour and Tory parties have been divided on the merits of European integration since the process started. Harold Macmillan's early overtures to Europe were viewed critically by several members of his Cabinet, and when Edward Heath eventually negotiated entry it was in the teeth of backbench opposition led by Enoch Powell. Mr Heath only secured entry with the help of pro-European Labour MPs who defied the whip.

Those Labour rebels were a significant minority, but a minority nevertheless. In 1962 Hugh Gaitskell, then party leader, committed Labour to oppose entry and the conse-

quent ending of "a thousand years of history".

The shift in attitudes which has seen the Tories take the more sceptical line is a product of changes in the European Union itself. The development of the social dimension and the growing transfer of powers to a supra-national bureaucracy has been congenial to Conservatives in Government and progressively more attractive to a Labour party in Opposition.

But the colour of the Government can be less important than the numbers on the backbenches. In order to finance his own party, Mr Major has promised a public referendum and a parliamentary free vote on a single currency. It has been presented as a victory for Tory sceptics. They should not cheer too soon. When in a similar bind in the Seventies, Harold Wilson bowed to his

sceptics by letting them off the leash. He called a referendum in 1974 and allowed his MPs and ministers the freedom to campaign on either side. Although some of his most talented lieutenants fought vigorously for a "No" vote, the weight of establishment pressure, with the Tory Opposition heavily in favour, helped secure a "Yes".

A free vote in the next Parliament might appear to allow Tory sceptics their head, but it would also allow Conservative Europhiles the freedom to support a single currency. Any Conservative leader determined to oppose it as effectively as possible would find that his backbench federalists had a licence to fraternise. He would need a united party to prevent the pound's abolition: Europhiles, given the freedom to vote as they wish, would make his task harder.

## Tory Europhiles to watch out for

The following is a list of Tory Europhiles whom sceptical voters should not support. Those whom Labour is best placed to prevent entering Parliament are:

Barnsley East and Mexborough — Jane Ellison; Barnsley — Tony Baldry; Battersea — John Bavis; Bedfordshire South-West — Sir David Mabel; Birmingham Edgbaston — Andrew Marshall; Bournemouth W — John Butterfill; Bolton W — Tom Sackville; Broxbourne — Jim Lester; Brighton Kemptown — Sir Andrew Bowden; Bury N — Alistair Burn; Bury S — David Sumner; Cambridge — David Flate; Cardiff W — Simon Hoare; Coventry — Tim Boswell; Derbyshire S — Edwina Currie; Dulwich & W Norwood — Roger Gough; Ebbw Vale — Spencer Batiste; Esher & Walton — Ian Taylor; Falmouth & Camborne — Sebastian Coe; Faversham & Mid-Kent — Andrew Rowe; Gillingham — James Couchman; Grantham & Stamford — Quentin Davies; Hamp-

stead & Highgate — Elizabeth Gibson; Harlow — Jerry Hayes; Harrow E — Hugh Dykes; Harrow W — Robert Hughes; Hornchurch — Robert Squire; Hove — Robert Guy; Lancaster & Wyre — Keith Mans; Leeds NW — Keith Hampson; Leicestershire NW — Robert Goodwill; Luton S — Sir Graham Bright; Milton Keynes NE — Peter Butler; Old Bexley and Sidcup — Sir Edward Heath; Preseli Pembrokeshire — Robert Buckland; Redditch — Anthea McIntyre; Ribblesdale — Robert Atkins; Rushcliffe — Kenneth Clarke; St Albans — David Rutley; Staffordshire S — Sir Patrick Cormack; Stockton S — Tim Devlin; Suffolk Coastal — John Gummer; Wantage — Robert Jackson; Wirral W — David Hunt; Wolverhampton NE — David Harvey; Wycombe — Ray Whitney.

Those whom the Liberal Democrats are best placed to beat: Ashford — Damian Green; Brecon & Radnorshire —

Jonathan Evans; Bournemouth E — David Atkinson; Brentwood & Ongar — Eric Pickles; Cambridgeshire NE — Malcolm Moss; Carnarvon & Wallington — Nigel Forman; Devon E — Sir Peter Emery; Dorset N — Robert Walter; Esher & Walton — Ian Taylor; Hampshire E — Michael Mates; Harborough — Edward Garner; Hastings & Rye — Jacqui Lait; Henley — Michael Heseltine; Leominster — Peter Temple-Morris; Lewes — Tim Rathbone;

Northampton — Sir John Cope; Oxford W & Abingdon — Laurence Harris; Saffron Walden — Sir Alan Haselhurst; Skipton & Ripon — David Curry; Somerset & Frome — Mark Robinson; Surrey SW — Virginia Bottomley; Vale of York — Anne McIntosh; Wantage — Robert Jackson; Weston-super-Mare — Margaret Daly; Mid-Worcestershire — Peter Luff; Worthing W — Peter Bottomley. Plaid Cymru is best placed to beat: Meirionnydd Nant Conwy — Jeremy Quin.

## Why John Bull backs Benn and Skinner

### FOR

The following are the Labour candidates sceptics should support. They are at least a force for open-mindedness within the party. Those fighting Tory Europhile opponents have a stronger claim on sceptic votes. Where the Tory is a pronounced sceptic that is noted.

Barnsley West and Penistone — Michael Clapham; Birmingham Erdington — Robin Corbett; Birmingham Hodge Hill — Terry Davis (Tory candidate Edward Grant is Europhile); Blackburn — Jack Straw; Blackpool — Llewellyn Smith; Blaydon — Ronnie Campbell; Bolton — Dennis Skinner (Tory candidate Richard Harwood is Europhile); Bradford South — Gerry Sutcliffe; Brent East — Ken Livingstone (but Tory candidate Mark Francois is also a sceptic); Chesterfield — Tony Benn; Clydesdale — Jimmy Hood; Crewe and Nantwich — Gwyneth Dunwoody; Derbyshire North-East — Harry Barnes; Durham City — Gerry Steinberg (Tory candidate Richard Chalk is Europhile); Ealing Southall — Piers Khabra; Erith and Thamesmead — John Austin-Walker; Falkirk East — Mich-



Tont Benn



Kate Hoey



Peter Mandelson



Joyce Quin

### AGAINST

The following are Labour candidates who are Europhiles. Sceptics should vote Tory to prevent their election. If the Conservative Party's candidate is a pronounced Eurosceptic, that is noted.

Ashfield — Geoff Hoon; Barking — Margaret Hodge; Barrow-in-Furness — John Hutton (Tory candidate Richard Hunt is a sceptic); Bassettlaw — Joe Ashton; Bridgford — Win Griffiths; Cammoch Chase — Tony Wright; Carrick Cummock and Doon Valley — George Foulkes; Clydebank and Milngavie — Tony Worthington; Cynon Valley — Ann Clwyd; Dun-

fermline East — Gordon Brown (Tory candidate Ian Mitchell is a sceptic); Dunfermline West — Rachel Squire; Durham North — Giles Radice; East Ham — Stephen Timms (Tory candidate Angle Bray is a sceptic); East Lothian — John Home Robertson (Tory candidate Murdoch Fraser is a sceptic); Gateshead East and Washington West — Joyce Quin; Glasgow Cathcart — John Maxwell; Greenwich and Woolwich — Nick Raynsford; Hackney South and Shoreditch — Brian Sedgemore (Tory candidate Chris O'Leary is a sceptic); Hamilton South — George Robertson; Harlepool — Peter Mandelson (Tory candidate Michael Horsley is a sceptic); Hud-

ael Connarty; Falkirk West — Dennis Canavan; Glasgow Pollok — Ian Davidson; Glasgow Baillieston — James Wray; Great Grimsby — Austin Mitchell (Tory opponent Dean Godson is also sceptic); Hackney North and Stoke Newington — Diane Abbott; Halifax — Alice Mahon; Hull East — John Prescott; Ipswich — Jamie Carr (Tory candidate Stephen Castle is Europhile); Islington North — Jeremy Corbyn; Keighley — Ann Cryer; Kingswood — Roger Berry; Leyton and Wanstead — Harry Cohen (Tory candidate Robert Vaudry is Europhile); Livingston — Rob Cook; Llanelli — Denzil Davies; Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney — Ted Rowlands; Neath — Peter Hain; Notting-

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# Mugabe wife and aides 'got millions' in housing fraud

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE'S wife Grace, 32, and dozens of members of his administration illegally borrowed millions of dollars from a housing finance scheme set up by a United States aid programme meant to benefit the urban poor, evidence in a court here has disclosed.

Documents before the High Court name the new Mrs Mugabe, the President's sister Bridget, two other members of his extended family, Stan Mudenge, the Foreign Minister, and Augustine Chihuri, the police commissioner, as having been granted loans for lavish homes from a guarantee fund meant for people on the breadline, earning \$21m,200 (£67) a month. They also name Ellick Mashingaidze, the recently retired secret police chief, Bornwell Chakozha, the director of information, a high court judge, deputy ministers, MPs and senior officials.

Last night, the President's office had no comment.

"He came with a mission and a vision for the poor," the state-controlled press reported last year of Paul Enders, of the US Agency for International Development, who helped to establish the scheme.

Documents before Judge George Smith show that Mrs Mugabe was

lent \$21m,9 million towards the \$21m,6 million cost of a 30-room double-storey mansion being built for her and her three children in Harare's most exclusive suburb.

The revelations emerged from a civil suit brought by a privately employed lawyer who was able to borrow money from the National Housing Guarantee Fund and sued the Housing Ministry after it stopped him from occupying the house because his payments were in ar-

rears. Judge Smith reserved judgment indefinitely. Paul Kodzwa, the former Permanent Secretary to the Housing Ministry, admitted that the fund had been illegally used. Up to \$21m,6 million may never be recovered and housing projects have been set back.

The evidence has given the surest indication yet of the pervasive corruption among what has become known as "the Mugabe royal family" and the senior ranks of his former Marxist-

leaning Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) party as it ardently champions "market forces" and measures for black economic empowerment.

The disclosures coincided with a letter from the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference, condemning the rampant greed and sleaze that have come to characterise Zimbabwean society. It said that the Government had failed to reach its goals of an egalitarian society and the equitable distribution of wealth and land.

President Mugabe, now in his seventeenth year of almost absolute rule in a de facto one-party state, appears to be in danger of being overwhelmed by the corruption in his administration.

He is under fire over allegations in the past month that top party officials — including his new brother-in-law, Reward Marufu — lied about non-existent guerrilla war injuries to be paid millions of dollars in compensation from the Government, and the rigged award of a licence for a lucrative cellular telephone system that went to a company that included Mr Mugabe's nephew, Leo Mugabe, and the husband and cousin of Joyce Mujuru, the Information Minister, who issued the licence.



Mrs Mandela: won in spite of doubts about her leadership

## Winnie Mandela retains ANC post

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela easily won re-election as president of the African National Congress Women's League, officials said yesterday.

In spite of speculation that President Mandela's former wife would be voted out because of her style of leadership, she beat Thandi Modise, her main opponent and deputy, by 656 votes to 114 at a meeting of 1,000 delegates at Rustenburg, North West Province, on Saturday. (Reuters)



Hong Qiaoling with her six-month-old baby Fangyan after spending 100 days in a glass cage with 38,000 snakes

## Family 'made to stay with snakes'

FROM REUTERS IN HONG KONG

AN AMUSEMENT park in China where six members of a "snake clan", including two children, were locked in a glass cage with thousands of poisonous snakes — to break a record that is not recognised — was denounced yesterday by human rights activists.

The six had been bitten repeatedly but were not allowed to leave the cage, the *Sunday Morning Post* reported from the southern Chinese city of Panyu. A spokesman for the Flying Dragon World Park said the "snake people" had agreed to live with the reptiles for 100 days — ending yesterday. The newspaper also quoted a spokeswoman for the London-based *Guinness Book of World Records* as saying that the stunt would not be accepted for publication because the marathon record category had been deleted.

Ho Het-Wah, chairman of the Hong Kong Human Rights Commission, urged tourists to boycott the park.

## Opposition chief says Cambodia faces civil war

BY DAVID WATTS

CAMBODIA is on the verge of civil war, and unless foreign donors begin to link further aid to good governance the country is in danger of becoming an international beggar.

External aid of more than \$500 million (£308 million) a year — including \$7 million in direct British aid apart from Britain's contributions through the United Nations — only serves to cover the country's deficit, says Sam Rainsy, leader of the opposition Khmer National Party.

Mr Rainsy, a former Finance Minister, paints a grim picture of a country fast regressing to its authoritarian Communist past under the influence of corruption and anti-democratic violence. Aid, he says, obviates the need for Phnom Penh to govern properly.

Mr Rainsy, who has survived one grenade attack this year, warned Britain that there were serious threats to next year's elections, with Hun Sen, the joint Prime Minister, determined to "seize absolute power by any means", since he knows he has little chance of retaining even a share of power after the poll.

"Cambodia has the largest per capita international assistance in the world, but even so the country is getting poorer and poorer," he told *The Times* in an interview in London. "It's just like a tank with a hole in it. You keep putting water in, but the water

level does not rise. You have to block the hole."

Western aid money, he says, is being paid because "that way everybody can relax. They think with money they can buy back their bad conscience on Cambodia."

As in the Lon Nol era of "ghost soldiers" in the 1970s, the military and military procurement are the focus of corruption on an epic scale.

If the West's generosity is doing Cambodia no favours, then neither are Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, which tell Phnom Penh not to worry about democracy and human rights while the economy is developing — then take advantage of Cambodia's lax laws and corruption to exploit its resources.

The grenade attack last month on a KNP rally was symptomatic of Hun Sen's determination to follow his own maxim: "When we don't have power we must seize it; when we have power we must keep it; power is something which cannot be shared."

Mr Rainsy is convinced that it was just the first chapter in an effort to create an atmosphere in which it will be impossible to hold elections. If Cambodia gets a reprieve and is able to conduct free and fair elections, Mr Rainsy has a vision of it being the key to a "reverse domino effect" in which democracy spreads inexorably to the last Communist states in the world.



Koala: huge appetite for food and mating

## Koalas to have 'Pill' implant

Sydney: A colony of koalas, a species under serious threat of extinction, according to wildlife experts, is to be given birth control hormones (Roger Maynard writes).

In an experiment in the Australian state of Victoria aimed at stemming regional population explosions, scientists have begun implanting small silicone tubes beneath the skin of 100 koalas which live on a reserve at Warramboul, near Melbourne. The tubes contain a hormone which will act as a contraceptive over a five-year period.

Koalas have a high rate of reproduction. As a result, colonies often destroy their habitat through overeating. It takes the leaves from 1,000 eucalyptus trees to provide a year's food for one koala.

Last year the South Australian state government rejected a plan to shoot koalas to keep down the local population after activists protested.

## Hunt for killers of Israeli women

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

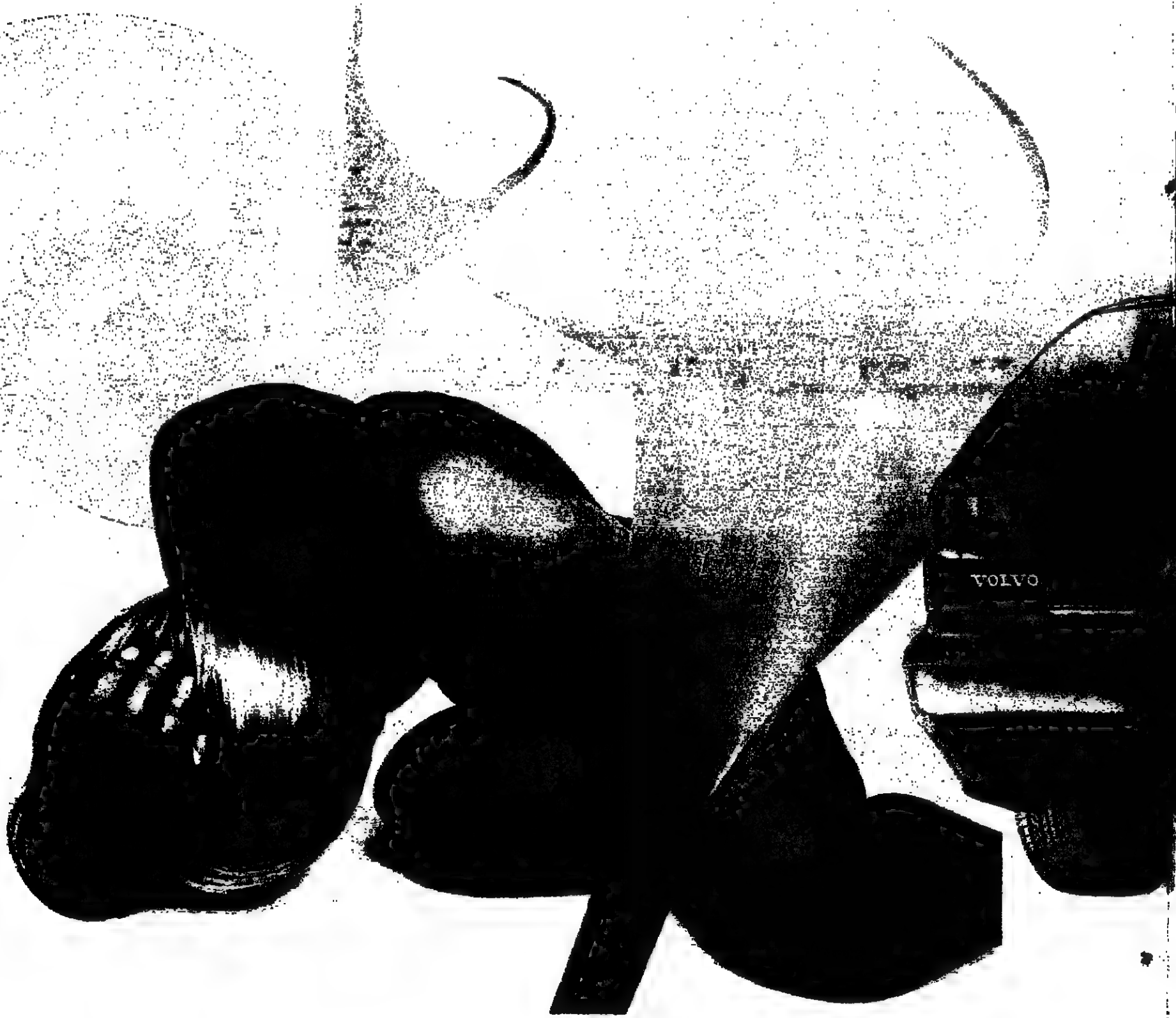
ISRAELI and Palestinian security forces are working together to find the killers of two young Jewish women in the West Bank.

Soldiers, police and volunteers yesterday searched the hills of the Judean desert for clues to the murders of the women, both 23. Their bodies, with multiple stab wounds, were found in the area known as Wadi Kelt, a popular hiking trail near Jericho.

After a post-mortem examination showed they had not been raped, Israeli police were assuming that the murders were carried out by Palestinian extremists. One of the victims, Liat Kastiel, was buried yesterday in her home town of Holon. The other Hagit Zavitky will be buried tomorrow.

According to one report, the women's throats had been slashed and their bodies dragged down a hill and thrown into the Wadi, a rocky water course.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, expressed shock and hoped that, with the help of the Palestinian police, the killers would be caught. Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, also condemned the killings, calling them "bestial and a disgrace".



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55 من المليون

# Kabila sets UN deadline to rescue Hutu refugees

LAURENT KABILA, Zaire's rebel leader, last night gave the United Nations 60 days to repatriate all Hutu refugees in the country "or we will do it ourselves". Speaking after talks with UN and European Union officials he demanded that the airlift begin on Thursday.

The rebel leader said he was seeking a personal apology from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, for accusing his troops of deliberately allowing thousands of refugees to die. He claimed his forces knew the whereabouts of more than 50,000 people who fled their makeshift camps south of Kisangani last week to escape attacks from local villagers.

As Mr Kabila spoke, UN aid agency officials overflying eastern Zaire reported that they had spotted several hundred people, probably Hutu refugees, gathered 25 miles south of Kisangani.

In a last-ditch attempt to head off a battle for Kinshasa, the capital, Bill Richardson, Washington's Ambassador to the United Nations, a diplomatic trouble-shooter, is to

The leader of Zaire's rebels is challenging United Nations claims that his forces are bent on the extermination of fleeing Hutus James Bone and Sam Kiley report

travel to Zaire to arrange peace talks between President Mobutu and Mr Kabila. A former Congressman from New Mexico who has undertaken sensitive diplomatic missions to Haiti, Burma, Sudan, Iraq and North Korea, Mr Richardson was dispatched by President Clinton at the weekend in an effort to end the civil war that has raged since last October.

Mr Kabila's ultimatum to the UN came after aid organisations and the UN had accused the rebels of attempting a slow extermination of the Rwandan Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire.

There has been increasing hysteria concerning the welfare of up to 100,000 Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire, in which aid groups and the UN have criticised rebel forces of organising massacres of

Hutus. The rebels, until recently seen as the "good guys" in the recent history of the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, are coming under increasing international pressure to explain why they have refused aid workers access to the refugees.

At least 55,000 Hutu refugees vanished into the rainforest south of Kisangani, Zaire's third largest city, last week, jeopardising plans to fly them home to Rwanda. The flight from the temporary refugee camps appears to have been sparked by attacks on them by local Zairean peasants who hate the Hutus because extremists among the refugees have killed large numbers of ordinary Zairean farmers in the region.

The delay in the repatriation flights organised by the UN High Commissioner for Refu-

gees was worsened by reports that members of the extremist Hutu militia, the *Interhamwe*, were forcing civilians to leave muster points and flee into the jungle rather than be sent home in the militia are likely to be prosecuted for their part in the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

Many, if not most, of the Hutu refugees now trapped in eastern Zaire are women and children who had only a passive part in committing the genocide. The UN and other groups have gone out of their way to criticise the rebels for denying access to the Hutus. But at the same time they have accused the rebels of committing massacres with the evidence only of alleged Hutu survivors.

In Kinshasa yesterday, a mere 2,000 supporters of President Mobutu turned out for a political rally by the party he founded. "No to weapons, yes to elections," one banner proclaimed. "Hold tight Marshal, we support you," read a small flag. The embattled President did not appear.



A supporter of President Mobutu hands a party flag to a government soldier at a Kinshasa rally yesterday

## Kennedy son faces 'teenage sex' row

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SEXUAL antics, which have plagued three generations of Kennedys, yesterday added a new chapter when Michael Kennedy, son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, was alleged to have slept with his children's teenage babysitter.

As a result of reports in the *Boston Globe* that he had begun an affair with the woman five years ago when she was 14, prosecutors in Massachusetts have begun an investigation to discover if Mr Kennedy, 39, had violated statutory rape laws.

The teenager and her parents, Paul and June Verrochi, once close friends of Mr Kennedy, have filed no criminal complaint, but the Massachusetts police said they were working with the district attorney's sexual assault unit to discover whether any crime had been committed.

Unhappy neighbours and friends had told the newspaper that Mr Kennedy had seduced the relationship even after Victoria, his wife of 16 years, caught the couple in bed at their home in the seaside hamlet of Cohasset.

Mrs Kennedy reportedly demanded that her husband enter a rehabilitation programme for alcoholics, but he continued to see the Verrochi girl and is reported to have stalked her before the teenager, now a student at Boston University, left him.

Last week Mr Kennedy announced that he and his wife were separating "amicably". Thomas Dwyer, his lawyer, said: "Because this matter is now under legal review, we will have no comment at this time." Mr Kennedy ran the 1994 Senate campaign for his uncle, Senator Edward Kennedy, and had considered running for Congress.

## Thatcher dedicates bridge

Hong Kong: The colony celebrated in style when Baroness Thatcher opened a 1.3-mile suspension bridge to the new airport here yesterday. Tens of thousands of people flocked to witness one of the last big British events before the return to Chinese rule at midnight on June 30. One notable absentee was the future leader, Tung Chee-hwa. Lady Thatcher, who signed the 1984 treaty governing the hand-over, called the bridge "an inspiring entrance to this modern city". (Reuters)

## Softer on drugs

Paris: Lionel Jospin, the opposition Socialist leader, who has admitted to smoking hashish twice in his life, told a television interviewer that he wanted to decriminalise use of the drug if his party emerged victorious from two-stage French parliamentary elections on May 25 and June 1. "Legalising sounds like justifying; penalising is absurd. I think we have to find a line somewhere between the two," he said. (Reuters)

## Golan 'mistake'

Jerusalem: In a secret interview he gave 20 years ago and published yesterday, Moshe Dayan, the late former Israeli Defence Minister, admitted he should not have occupied the Golan Heights in Syria in 1967. "I made a mistake in allowing the conquest... as Defence Minister I should have stopped it because the Syrians were not threatening us at the time," he said. (AFP)

## Papal vision

Prague: The Pope celebrated Mass with more than 100,000 people here to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the martyrdom of the missionary St Adalbert and told Czechs that their long Christian tradition was the guarantee of their future. "Your Christian history is not over... your saints are alive," he said. (Reuters)

## Canadian poll

Ottawa: Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, who is ahead in opinion polls, is calling a general election for June 2, which is 17 months early, according to a statement issued shortly before he was to have a meeting with the Governor-General. (Reuters)



Michael Kennedy: rape inquiry over babysitter

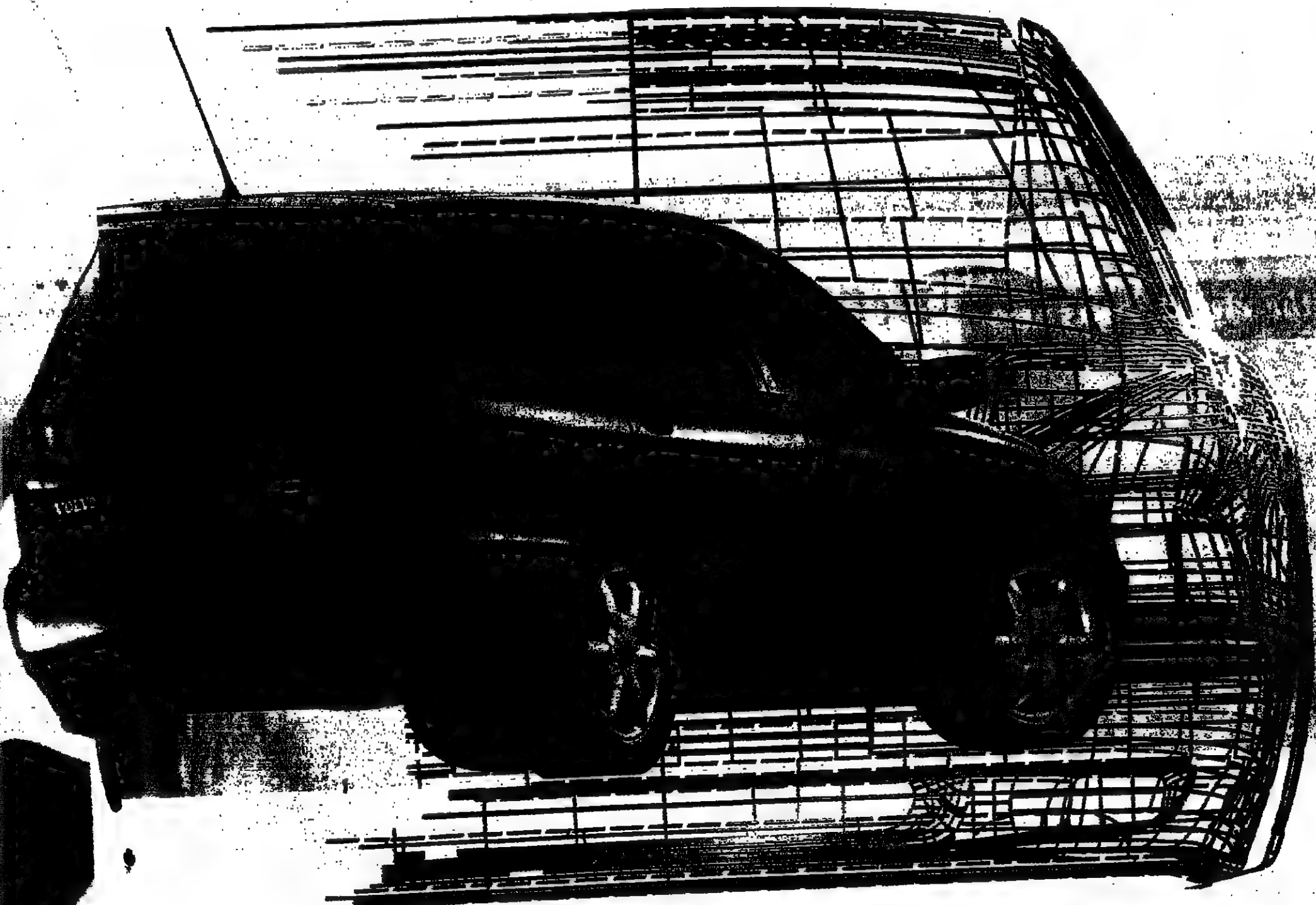
## US crusade launched to combat youth crime

Washington: President Clinton and General Colin Powell, the popular Gulf War veteran, entered a political battle for the heart of their country yesterday as they launched a new volunteer army to keep young Americans off the streets (Tom Rhodes writes).

Ostensibly a non-partisan event, the President's Summit for America's Future opened in Philadelphia thick with political symbolism. The event was intended as a "wake-up" call to volunteers throughout the country. General Powell stepped on to the podium to inaugurate what he described as a crusade to bring back the American Dream. He said: "Black and white are coming together because we care, because we are a compassionate nation."

Mr Clinton announced a series of proposals to provide help for children. He has asked for \$2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) for a programme entitled "America Reads" with which he hopes to improve standards of education. "We are still losing too many kids to crime and drugs," he said.

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# Cracking the secret code of creation

**Nigel Hawkes on a genetic breakthrough that could help the body grow replacement organs**

**L**ose an arm and you'll never grow another one. That may seem obvious, but all the original genes which instructed the first arm to grow are still there and, in theory, available for service.

Turning them on again and enabling the body to rebuild itself after accident or disease has become the target of ambitious developmental biologists. They dream of reconstructing bones damaged by osteoporosis, or persuading the heart to build new muscle after a heart attack.

"The whole circuitry is there, ready to go," says Dr Doros Platika, president and chief executive of Ontogeny, a biotech company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and named after the development process — embryo to adult — through which we all pass. "What we are aiming to do is to revive capabilities that are lying dormant. If we can, we should be able to treat a number of degenerative diseases, from osteoporosis to Alzheimer's," Dr Platika's optimism is based on the huge progress made in the past ten years in understanding the process by which the single cell of a fertilised egg develops into the multiplicity of organs of the human body. This process, akin to a miracle, appears to use exactly the same mechanisms required in adults for growth, tissue regeneration and repair.

The trouble, explains Dr Platika, is that as we age, we lose the capability to turn on repair mechanisms. Operations on adults generally leave a scar, but operations carried out in the womb heal so perfectly that it is impossible to tell they have taken place.

In adults, the ability to regenerate organs is not lost; blood, bone, and many other organs are constantly being remade. The process is not universal, however. When a coronary artery is blocked, the body does not have the ability to create another one. But when a solid tumour develops anywhere in the body, it needs blood vessels to feed it, and they are created in great numbers. This shows, says Dr Platika, that the ability to create new organs is not lost in adults, but merely latent. Provide the right circumstances and it can be triggered back to life.

That answer, Ontogeny believes, is based on a family of proteins called Hedgehog. They have nothing to do with hedgehogs, having gained their name when scientists discovered the first one in 1980. Eric Wieschaus and Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard found that mutations in the gene responsible disrupted the development of fruit-fly embryos, turning them into a bristly shape, a bit like a hedgehog. For this discovery,

the two won the 1995 Nobel Prize for Medicine. Since then, several more Hedgehog genes have been found. Dr Philip Ingham, of Sheffield University and a member of Ontogeny's scientific advisory board, was responsible with others for showing that higher animals have three Hedgehogs, called equally quaintly *Sonic hedgehog*, *Indian hedgehog*, and *Desert hedgehog*. (Conventionally, genes are given italics to distinguish them from the proteins they make, which are printed in roman script.)

*Sonic hedgehog* has several roles, including the creation of cells in the brain and central nervous system. *Indian hedgehog* is expressed in the limbs, directing the development of bone and cartilage, while *Desert hedgehog* drives the development of male sperm. The belief is that there are limited numbers of Hedgehogs — probably no more than three or four in humans, in which case it is possible that all of them have been discovered.



**The whole of human circuitry is there, just ready to go**

Dr Doros Platika

Ontogeny, which was founded in August 1994 by four developmental geneticists from Harvard, Columbia, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, owns the rights to all three Hedgehogs, which puts it in a strong position to exploit them commercially. But biologists remain uncertain about how easy that will be.

The principle is simple. The proteins produced by the Hedgehog genes bind to the surface of cells and initiate a series of developmental changes. If cells from the brain of

chick embryos are exposed to *Sonic hedgehog*, for example, they develop into neurons that include the type responsible for making dopamine — just the sort of cells that Parkinson's disease patients lack. *Sonic hedgehog* can also be used to produce the neurons that are destroyed by Alzheimer's disease.

In this case, the idea would be to create the right kind of cells in culture, and then inject them into the brains of sufferers. That this might work is shown by earlier experiments, using foetal cells, which produced encouraging improvements in Parkinson's patients.

With *Indian hedgehog*, the hope is to treat osteoporosis, or fractures that refuse to mend. The company plans animal experiments beginning next year, followed by clinical trials. The German drug company, Boehringer Mannheim, is excited enough to have agreed to invest \$40 million (£25 million) in a partnership with Ontogeny over the next five years. The experiments are designed to understand the processes more precisely and to develop therapies. This deal followed an even larger one, in which Biogen agreed to invest £50 million in a partner-



The foetus can repair tissue damage — in future adults may be able to do the same

ship with Ontogeny to develop drugs from each of the three Hedgehogs. The embryologist Professor Lewis Wolpert of University College London, is sceptical that things will prove as simple as Ontogeny and its partners hope. He suspects that clinical applications remain a long way off, if only because the process of signalling involves not just the Hedgehogs, but many other "inducing molecules" that are triggered in a cascade.

**H**edgehogs are signalling molecules," he says, "but I would be very surprised if the problem in most diseases is in the signal, rather than the response. My reason for believing that is quite simple. If diseases were caused by deficiencies in Hedgehog, then you wouldn't expect just one thing to go wrong, but lots of things."

Dr Platika acknowledges that there may be dozens of genes orchestrated by Hedgehog, and the company has developed a neat system for discovering them. The ability

of geneticists to identify genes has outstripped their ability to discover exactly what they do. Ontogeny has developed a screening system, which enables candidate genes to be tested, and to discover if they have any function in the development process.

They do not have the field to themselves. There are at least nine American biotech companies with an interest in development, all hoping that they may be able to match Amgen Inc, which has produced the most successful biotech product to date, a genetically engineered human protein, erythropoietin, normally produced by the kidneys.

This protein stimulates the production of red blood cells, and can reverse the severe anaemia caused by kidney failure. Epogen and the related product, Neupogen, earn Amgen sales of \$2 billion a year, proving that products designed to aid the development process can work and make a lot of money.

"It may be demented," Dr Platika says, "but I think we are going to be the Amgen of the future."

Langley Laboratory, reckons that the key to humour lies in this 100 millisecond difference — he thinks humour may have evolved as a way of detecting incongruity, and is therefore a problem-solving tactic.

Yet another expert on the case is Robert Provine, a psychologist from Maryland University, who has observed that people laugh in the same way. So whether you giggle breathlessly like Marilyn Monroe or boom like Frank Bruno, you issue short bursts of sounds that repeat at regular intervals.

DR PROVINE points out that people cannot utter on command, he confirms this by asking bemused members of the public to do so. However, when he produces a "laugh box" which delivers an electronic snigger, most people succumb to a chuckle. From this he has deduced that laughter is unconsciously controlled, and is a message that we send to other people (we are 30 times more likely to chorle if we are in company).

Origins, Discovery Channel, tomorrow, 8pm.

Dr Peter Derks, from the

□ Potent parasites □ Cosmic farewell □ Wood warning

## Malaria bites back

COMMON anti-malaria drugs may increase the transmission of the disease, biologists at the University of Edinburgh have discovered. Drugs such as chloroquine and mefloquine (sold as Lariam) protect the individual from the symptoms of malaria, but unless all the parasites are killed, they do nothing to reduce transmission of the disease and may even increase it.

"Chloroquine kills many of the parasites, but the survivors compensate so the infection remains just as infectious," says Dr Angus Buckling, one of the Edinburgh team. Malaria is a growing threat in many parts of the world, with deaths in some African countries rising sevenfold over the past five years. In poor countries, the drugs are too expensive for everybody to use, and those that can afford them tend to give up taking them too soon, creating conditions for the disease to spread.

The cause of the disease is a parasite of the genus *Plasmodium*, which is carried from person to person by mosquitoes. In the victim, the parasite divides to form many offspring, called asexuals, which infect the red blood cells before themselves reproducing. Anti-malarial drugs kill off these asexuals, which are responsible for the symptoms of malaria. But some survive and go on to produce the sexual form of the parasite, which can then infect other people. Using a form of malaria that infects mice, the Edinburgh team has shown that mice treated with chloroquine have a smaller number of asexuals, but these compensate by

producing the sexual form more rapidly. The result is that the transmission rate to mosquitoes is the same in untreated as in treated populations.

Writing in *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, they say that the response is typical of any organism put under stress. The tendency is to shift energy into an unstressed part of the organism, or of its life-cycle. Gardeners who pick the flowers from potatoes — thus preventing sexual reproduction — do so because it encourages the plant to shift effort into asexual reproduction by producing more tubers.

The team, led by Dr Andrew Read, believes malaria drugs may actually increase the rate of infection in a population. As they reduce the number of parasites, they may also reduce the immune response to infection, which, he says, "could result in greater transmission from infected people".

Taking anti-malarials in countries where only a proportion of the population can afford them is therefore an "I'm all right, Jack" strategy. The person taking the drugs is protected, but to the possible detriment of poorer sections of the community. Dr Read is not suggesting that anti-malaria drugs should not be taken. "We're saying 'use them properly'," he says. This means persisting to the end of the course.

As most anti-malarials attack the same stage of the life-cycle, the Edinburgh findings are likely to apply across the board. Further tests using other drugs confirm this, and the next step will be to see if potential vaccines produce the same response.

SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

## Astronomers find comet's third tail

**AS THE comet Hale-Bopp makes its farewells, astronomers have discovered something strange: it has three tails. In addition to the dust and ion tails, Hale-Bopp has a third tail, consisting of neutral sodium atoms. It was identified by a team led by Dr Gabriele Cremonese, of the Astronomical Observatory in Padua, using a telescope on Palma in the Canary Islands.**

The sodium tail is about 400,000 miles wide and 30 million miles long, and was spotted when the comet was observed through a narrow-band filter designed to detect the orange glow of sodium. The new tail is a mystery because it is not clear why it exists. The ion tail is there because ions are torn from the comet by the electrically charged particles of the solar wind, but this should not happen to the neutral particles seen in the sodium tail.

There must be a completely new mechanism at work here," says Richard West, of the European Southern Observatory. One possibility is that the sodium particles are shed by the dust driven from the comet's nucleus.

## Don't tread on the bluebells

**SPRING is here and the bluebells are out in the woods. But for heaven's sake don't tread on them, say Dr Susan Barker and Jim Littlemore, of the University of Warwick. They have found that these apparently indestructible plants, appearing every spring in their millions, are easily damaged by the tread of feet.**

They found that seed production in bluebells declined to only a tenth of normal levels after 200 people had passed through specially prepared "trampling lanes". Recovery rates were also poor; they report in *Tree News*, with low seed production persisting season after season. These "drastic results" suggest that the carrying capacity of many bluebell woods is a lot lower than anybody thought, since seed is the main method used by bluebells to sustain their numbers.

Nor are bluebells the only victims; they are, in fact, much tougher than many other woodland plants. The message is that people, visiting the woods to admire the bluebells, should stick to the paths, and resist the temptation to walk through them.

## Anjana Ahuja looks at what makes one joke flat, another funny

### It really is the way we tell 'em

**WHY do we find some jokes hilarious and others dull? It's the way they tell 'em, according to researchers at the Media Laboratory of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who filmed the monologues of stand-up comedians.**

The most effective jokes did not depend on subject matter but on three magic ingredients controlled by the joke-teller — long pauses, expansive hand gestures and fluctuations in intonation. "It may be that the professional comedian uses these signals to guide the audience," reveals MIT re-

searcher Joshua Wachman in a documentary to be shown on satellite television tomorrow.

The science of humour is a serious business. The reason is that nobody knows where our sense of humour comes from, nor why it evolved. MIT is not the only high-flying institution peering behind the punchline; psychologists at

Nasa's Langley Laboratory are investigating what happens in the brain when people are confronted with something amusing.

Volunteers are wired up to a computer and their brain's electrical impulses are scanned as they read statements on the screen. At the end of each statement is a blank space; a key is pressed to make the punchline appear. For example, one sentence is "The pizza is too hot to...". If the word "eat" appears in the space, the brain takes 300 milliseconds to make sense of the phrase.

However, if the sentence becomes "The pizza is too hot to cry", the brain takes 400 milliseconds to register it and emits a different type of electrical impulse. Moreover, the same 400 millisecond wave is produced when the subject is tickled by a joke.

Dr Peter Derks, from the

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Drug users seek escape from past troubles and future worries in an all-embracing "now". Yet the sensitive connections in their brains are being damaged, perhaps forever

# Blowing your mind

When I visit schools to give teenagers a flavour of current brain research, there is often a pin-drop silence as we come to the subject of drugs. It is not that I attempt to clamour on to the moral high ground. Rather, what I try to convey is that drug abuse puts at risk one's most valuable possession: the mind.

Why? Most people think that the brain, and in turn their "character" and "mind", is an immutable, albeit elusive, entity. Some would go further and claim the brain was like a computer — an electrical marvel. After all, the familiar EEG records waves of electrical signals that are generated within the outer layer of the brain in sufficient force to penetrate the skull. Is it not remarkable, then, that a drug which is a chemical should make any impression on the brain, and indeed the mind? Clearly the brain must be more than just a buzzing hub of electrical comings and goings. Chemicals are pivotal.

The electrical part of the story unfolds mainly within the single, isolated brain cell, a neuron. Each neuron generates a voltage: if everyday charged atoms (ions) enter or leave the cell, there is a sharp blip — an electrical signal lasting one or two thousandths of a second. This is enough to contribute to an EEG, and any of the hundred billion neurons in the brain will send it out as an attempt to communicate with the next neuron along. The only problem is that brain cells do not so much shake hands as keep each other at arms' length. The "axon" (axon) of a neuron can be very long, nonetheless the electrical blip hurries out along it at high speed. But then the problem: there is a gap (synapse). An analogy would be that of motoring along an empty road

which terminates at a river. The car is no longer of use. One solution would be to abandon the car in favour of a boat, cross the river, dock the boat and acquire another car to continue. Such is nature's strategy. The electrical signal, the car, triggers the release of a special chemical — a "transmitter" — from the end of the first neuron: this molecular speedboat can cross the gap and dock into a custom-made site on the outside of the target cell. It is this precise interlocking that triggers a new flux of ions into or out of the second cell, creating a new electrical signal.

Most commonly, then, the electrical part of brain operations is restricted to what happens within a brain cell, whereas chemicals are important in what happens between them. And this is where many of the most powerful drugs come in.

Opium, for example, and its derivatives morphine and heroin, work by fooling the brain into thinking that a naturally occurring transmitter (enkephalin) has been released. The drugs are sufficiently similar in structure to pose as convincing impostors, fitting into the relevant receptor and causing changes in the communication between certain brain cells.

The chilling difference, however, is one of quantity. The naturally occurring enkephalins are released in minuscule amounts in localised sites within the brain, as and when needed: they are then rapidly removed from the site of action. By contrast, the drug counterparts will be taken into the bloodstream and gain indiscriminate access to many parts of the brain. At the same time, the drug will be taken in far higher doses and will linger in the critical zones for longer.

## DRUGS AND THE BRAIN



Many films and books appear to endorse drug-taking

Hence the effect is a vastly exaggerated caricature. Moreover, the receptors — which act as intermediaries — can react to constant bombardment by becoming less "sensitive" to instigating the next electrical signal in the chain. Hence more drug is needed to attain the original effect: addiction.

This crippling phenomenon offers a window on a fundamental feature of the brain: even in adults, the efficiency of connections between neurons is subject to change. It is this dynamic aspect that underlies memory and learning. And if we can learn — change from

experience — then surely we "ourselves" (who are, after all, no more or less than the connections in our brain) can change, too.

My view is that the "mind" is the personalisation of the brain, via configuring and reconfiguring its microcircuitry through experience. This elaborate and ever-changing circuitry will play an important part not only in contributing to one's "personality" but also as a means of making sense of the outside world.

It is from experience that we know, unlike a child, that a figure draped in a white sheet

is someone with a tired sense of humour rather than a ghost. As such, our carefully nurtured "minds" act as a form of inner resource against the confusion of the outside world. Arguably, nightmares could be interpreted as returns to the mindless terrors of childhood, where our sobering ability to rationalise from experience has let us down. One has temporarily "lost one's mind".

If mind is rooted in neuronal circuitry, which in turn is dependent on chemical interactions, it is not surprising that a host of mental disorders can be treated with drugs. But there is no drug without a side effect; for example the common treatment for what could be viewed as a protracted nightmare, schizophrenia, can also induce bodily tremors.

This is because, as with morphine, the drug will not only intervene at the site of disarray but will distort communications between other brain regions as well. In the case of professionally prescribed medication, the payoff is hopefully worth it. But what of a healthy brain seeking a chemical kick-start into some merely new consciousness?

The most frequently abused drugs, all so different in their effects, seem to share the common factor of serving to reduce the contribution from the "mind", unleashing a present that dominates at the expense of thoughts of past, or hopes of future. The emphasis is on a Now, which is either more dream-like and unreal (heroin), gives distorted sensations (LSD), is more exciting (cocaine and amphetamine), or is stripped of all individual "meaning" (Ecstasy).

Just as with bungee jumping, the user is in an encapsulated snapshot. But chemical bungee jumping has no guaranteed bounce-back. Drug-induced consciousness may be

in the present; but the brain, obliging and wondrous organ that it is, is always ready to learn, to change.

Drugs work away at the mind as a very blunt instrument. They are not likely to respect the highly localised and specialised changes that occur between neurons during the lifelong evolution of our individuality. By marinating the connections in high and persistent levels of psychoactive agents, it would be hard to see how the connections between neurons were not going to change profoundly. Blowing one's mind may be literally just that.

SUSAN GREENFIELD

The author is Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, a Fellow of Lincoln College and Gresham Professor of Physics

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**AMPHETAMINES**  
Altered speed, whizz, buzz, poor man's cocaine.  
Price: £10-£20 a gram.  
Form: Usually in wads of paper, rolled up the nose or in a cigarette.  
Effects: Usually in a pill. Hardcore addicts inject it.  
Duration of high: 6-8 hours.  
Legal status: Class B.  
Highs: Powerful stimulant which excites the central nervous system, elevates the mood and heightens endurance (including sexual stamina).  
Low: "Crash" and "comedown" the next day.  
Effects: Typically addictive. Prolonged use can cause heart failure.

**COCAINE**  
Crack, weed, hash, dope, pot, ganja, blow.  
Price: £25 to £50 a quarter ounce for the more powerful "crack" which is grown at the "farms".  
Form: Most common is to smoke it in a "joint" or a "spliff" or pipe and "boogie" which are sold in cellophane paraphernalia shops. Also eaten in cakes.  
Duration of high: 1-2 hours.  
Legal status: Class B.  
Highs: Euphoria, intense intimacy and abstract levels of energy.  
Low: Nausea, diarrhoea, sweating. Afterwards fatigue and depression over several days. Death from respiratory collapse and overeating.

**HEROIN**  
Strack, brownie, horse.  
Price: £20-£100 a gram.  
Form: Street heroin has a brownish tinge. It can be injected, smoked or smoked pure (chasing the dragon).  
Duration of high: Up to 3 hours.  
Legal status: Class A.  
Highs: An opiate, heroin creates a instant rush of pleasure, connoisseur warmth and sleepiness.  
Low: Heroin can be both mentally and physically addictive. Withdrawal symptoms include aches, vomiting and possible coma. A pure dose can kill. Sharing needles carries high HIV risk.

**LSI**  
Lysergic acid diethylamide, acid, trips, tabs.  
Price: £3-£5.  
Form: Generally available as squares of impregnated card about the size of a small fingernail, sometimes with symbols such as Batman or a smiling face on them.  
Duration of high: 6-12 hours.  
Legal status: Class A.  
Highs: Grand claims that it transports the mind to a higher sphere and turns consciousness inside out. Most users have auditory or visual hallucinations.  
Low: It has been claimed that even a single trip can bend minds permanently, or tip someone into schizophrenia. Has led users to believe they have superhuman abilities such as flying, resulting in death or injury. Flashbacks.

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**ECSTASY**  
3,4-MDA, MDMA, methylenedioxymethylamphetamine, also various "brand" names.  
Price: £10-£12.  
Form: Usually in white, crystalline tablets.  
Duration of high: 4-6 hours.  
Legal status: Class A.  
Highs: Euphoria, intense intimacy and abstract levels of energy.  
Low: Nausea, diarrhoea, sweating. Afterwards fatigue and depression over several days. Death from respiratory collapse and overeating.

**SOLVENTS/GASES**  
Price: Glue or lighter fuel out as little as 5p.  
Form: Fumes from such products are inhaled.  
Duration of high: 15 to 45 minutes.  
Legal status: It is an offence to supply to under-18s knowing that they intend to become intoxicated.  
Highs: Users — 10 per cent of secondary schoolchildren try it once — feel euphoric. Many report hallucinations.  
Low: Two to three users die each week. Can damage kidneys, liver and brain.

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JULIAN KOSOFF

## TOMORROW

Schools: the startling truth is that middle-class children as young as ten have an astonishing insight into the drug scene

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## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### VISUAL ART

**Heads she wins:** Christine Borland's striking sculpture goes on show at the Lisson Gallery  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



### THEATRE

**Curtain up in** Scarborough on Alan Ayckbourn's latest play, *The Things We Do For Love*  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### DANCE

**At Covent Garden** Darcey Bussell leads the cast of Glen Tetley's new ballet  
OPENS: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Friday



### BOOKS

**The very shy and retiring** Thomas Pynchon produces a new novel, *Mason & Dixon*  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Thursday

We all agree that it has gone on for far too long. I am, I confess, rather addicted to it, although I am aware that it is a pursuit that bores many more people than it engages. The winner has been apparent for some time, and indeed the outcome was predicted ages ago. The comments of the leaders are becoming increasingly terse, and who can dispute that much of the charm is beginning to drain away? Thank goodness it will soon be over and we can all take a rest. It has been a very long season.

But now, with the Premier League all but settled, and the unique news of Carlisle United winning at Wembley winging its way to that great grandstand in the sky where my father, faithful through years of Third Division North football, will be singing hallelujahs, we can re-engage the great discussion of the moment — how can we fit football into an art form? Is it ballet, theatre, music, or a combination of all of them?

Here we can only scratch the

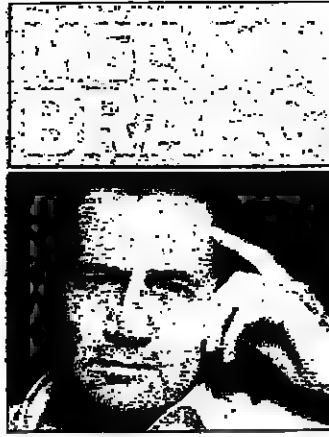
## And it's Roy Keane, on as sub for Edmund

surface of a subject taking up more and more academic resources. There are a number of the older universities which — unsurprisingly, perhaps, given that they are funded by Littlewoods of Liverpool — favour the comparison with music. A cluster of newer universities in the south and west that have wangled lottery money are, perhaps consequently, determined to prove that football is a theatrical enterprise. (Incidentally, this receives much support from the Latin world.) Football as dance — an easier case — is being tackled by the London School of Economics with a controversial grant from the Arts Council's flexible dance panel. There is some work being done in Dublin on football as poetry, and at the "University of Highbury", in North London, football as fiction is a compulsory first-year course. There is also a

most unfashionable school — buried somewhere in the north, around the new university of Old Trafford — devoted to the passé notion that war and battle are still relevant to football. This school seems completely unaware of the new aesthetic at large.

Football as ballet is worth serious consideration. I remember, in 1966, a young Michael Kustow about to hurl himself on to the pyre of the ICA suggesting that I make an arts programme about the game in terms of ballet. Until then, I had no idea that Kustow knew what shape a football was, but I was flattered for football. Alas, it was an idea before its time.

Since then, of course, Football-as-Dance has become a rich area for doctorates all over the football world. It is not difficult to see why. What a header of the ball Nijinsky would have been. What an



attacker Nureyev could have become. Think of Wayne Sleep wriggling his way through a defence, and think of a defence itself as co-ordinated as cygnets in *Swan Lake*.

Clearly this has to be given serious consideration, especially when we add individual instances such as the elegant movements of Dennis Bergkamp or the sudden dashes of Ian Wright, or the occasional wholly surprising entrances of David Platt.

The fact that football has no set pattern, no inevitable plot, no guaranteed climax, no single-authored vision — these are just a few of the trivial points being addressed by our leading scholars.

The musical comparison may be harder to accept at first, but the word "orchestrate" constantly comes to mind. Arsene Wenger, for instance, has orchestrated a hitherto rather ballooning Highbury side into a new formation which prefers to keep the ball on the grass. Bach, as it were, has replaced Baroque.

[I can regard the passage of

the ball as the melody, and each player as a different instrument — Tony Adams at the cello, for instance, and Patrick Vieira in the brass section — and if we can use the same imagination as those scientists who think in ten dimensions, then surely we can embrace the thought that movement can be translated into sound. Indeed, John Cage has given us all a powerful precedent.

Should this be too difficult, then we can take on board the roars of the crowd and the wild clarinet of the referee's whistle, which give enough primitive pulsing to dignify the game with the same energy so freely acknowledged by our contemporary composers who have stolen so profitably from what they call primitive cultures. But it is, of course, the theatrical

which is the most favoured by the more pointy-headed scholars. The very words we use from Sophocles to Shakespeare to Stoppard are there before us on the field incarnate. We have our players; we have our drama and our melodrama, our comedies and tragedies and histories and plays of manners. We have our acts and scenes and one man in his time often plays many parts. Polonius would have been a good sports writer: given the breadth of his overview, this analogy with the theatre seems the perfect fit.

However, an obstinate university department in the north persists in calling football a "game", with rules and intentions and expectations essentially different from any artistic enterprise. Annoyingly, this nagging reminder of times past will not go away. Thankfully, though, the word "game" is disappearing from football, as art and business gain the upper hand, and "game" is relegated to other areas of our national life, such as politics.



English National Opera's latest revival of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne on Naxos*: "Purely vocally, this was a pretty stunning evening"

## The sounds of pleasure

If you ever thought that Strauss's chamber opera got lost in the wide-open spaces of the Coliseum, then hurry along to the latest revival. Friday's opening night was a welter of luscious sound, so much so that one occasionally wished that earplugs had been handed out with the programmes. No criticism — as Dame Edna would say, I mean that caringly. Purely vocally, this was a pretty stunning evening, thanks to three American singers making their house debuts.

Christine Brewer has everything for the title role: ample, vibrant tone throughout the range from top B flats either ringing loudly or sketched in pianissimo (obeying Strauss to the letter) down to a bottom A flat that is really in the voice, not conjured out of some resonating-cavity oubliette. And she has the breath control to soar through Strauss's long phrases to thrilling effect. She is also hypermusical, caressing those phrases with the sensuousness of a true Straussian.

Her Bacchus is Jon Fredric West, who has sung Otello at the Met and you can hear why — his heroic tone pins you to the back of your seat, at times a little unsparingly, though he

**OPERA**  
*Ariadne on Naxos*  
Coliseum

floats one sweetly operettaish soft A that left you asking for more. Poetic he isn't, but such complete security in a killer-role counts for a lot. Like Brewer, he got every word of Tom Hammond's translation across, reminding you that the opera is about something other than vocal prowess.

Erie Mills (Zerbinetta) is no mechanical nightingale. Her substantial soprano fills the auditorium with ease, and indeed Es. She held on longer than strictly necessary to a note most Zerbinettas come off as soon as they decently can, and why not? If you've got it,

flaunt it. The Composer is a deeply ambiguous role: sopranos fare better in it, and it exposed some raw, strident passages at the top of Susan Parry's mezzo in her first attempt. Nicholas Folwell's first Music Master, though, was a notable success — again, every word made to count.

Peter Snipp's unconventional, poetically Harlequin continues to give pleasure, and Donald Sinden's way-over-the-top Major Domo to infuriate: gags with the orchestra and conductor are not in the script, but I imagine there's no stopping him. The conductor in question, Richard Hickox, was somewhat inflexible early on, but joined Brewer and West in a final 20-minute wallow of Tyrian, not to say Tony Blair-style purple.

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## Fearful fun, to be Frank

IAIN BANKS is a compulsively readable writer, but if I ever had the chance to explore the inside of his head, I might decline. A fellow can never be sure what will happen to him in a place like that. Nor a woman either, which is more to the point in this first novel of his. As for dogs, rabbits, sheep and, of course, wasps, they are fortunate if the death they meet is quick.

Published in 1984, admired and loathed in equal proportions, the book has become a cult novel, tapping a contemporary desire to find horrors treated with humour. On a sandy island, off the coast by Inverness, torched small animals turn as crisp as the phrases that describe the torching. But, like other modern Scottish novelists of cult status, a core of social criticism can be discerned, although not in this adaptation by Malcolm Sutherland.

However, until the muddled denouement — or rather, one of the pair of climaxes that end Frank's story — Sutherland's direction is ferociously imaginative. The action is set on a slightly tilted, split stage (at the West Yorkshire Playhouse) where four of Frank's Sacrifice Poles stand silhouetted against the plain cyclorama. Robert Innes Hopkins's elegant design can become island, dunes and town. Then, when the scenery closes in, his

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set becomes Frank's odd home or the door, 20 foot high, to his father's locked study.

Sutherland's version retains the first-person narration of the book but distributes it between two Franks (Martin Freeman and Tom Smith), identically dressed in striped shirts and horn-rims. In the scene with David Gant's grimly bearded Father, or with the host of victims, one Frank can remain impassive, the other reveal feeling or intention. This is a strikingly successful device, not only theatrical but creepy and alarming, so that the murders of cousin Blyth by snake, young brother Paul by bomb, and cousin Esmeralda by soaring kite are given a collusive tone from the start. The two Franks are the image of Frank and the reader/audience, and nervously disconcerting this can be.

What this powerfully acted adaptation does not manage to recreate is the climactic scene when Frank's brother Eric returns from the asylum. The secret of Frank's nature, contained in the study, is revealed, and this is effectively done. But the axe-wielding

masked figure who threatens, departs and is seen no more leaves half the story in the air. "Parents!" says Frank in disgust at the end. The first line of Philip Larkin's most famous poem could never be more aptly applied than to Banks's Frankie Hero.

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Stella Cornet and Bill Nighy, photo by Mark Doust

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**■ MUSIC**

**Blow-by-blow**  
account: Europe's  
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**POP: U2 take to the road in Las Vegas. Plus, new-style American gospel on the South Bank; and a celebration of youth**

**U2 launched its massive world tour in Las Vegas on Friday night. Luke Clancy reports on the band's biggest gamble yet**

**‘U2 are still trawling the art world for images’**

begin to move. If there is one thing U2 are blithely optimistic about, it is their fans.

U2 are still tawling the art world for images and ideas, but these days the whole thing seems to have become more historical. For the PopMart tour, which reaches Britain in August, the band, and presumably the small army of visual consultants credited on the programme, have gone back to the Sixties, to the pioneer explorers of the culture of surfaces. They have returned to see if there is any mileage left in Warhol's plundered screen print Hollywood, or Lichtenstein's exploded comic-book ripoffs.

The risk of U2's kind of deliberate technological and conceptual overload is that the music might get lost. The band have for many years produced albums that tend to be more or less explained, after the fact,

by their stage shows. *Pop*, in many ways the band's grumpest recording, and featuring uncomfortable, stinging rock'n'roll about a crisis of faith, needs some explaining. But while the show puts ideal, ambitious focus, the music almost inevitably slips somewhat out of register.

On this opening night Bono seems to be saying some of that high-octane sass that should hold the whole colossus together. There are still extraordinary, undefinable moments, such as when a version of the Monkees' *Daydream Believer* provokes a stadium-wide singalong. But for every such occasion of celebration with one of the older, less ambivalent tunes — such as the closing anthem *One* — there is the bracing cold shower of a scathingly misanthropic song like *Miami*.

Presumably, if the tunes are too disturbing, fans can always goof off into the pipelated depths of the video screen. Indeed, with PopMart it's more tempting than ever to keep your eyes on the screen, rather than the little people dancing before it. When their backdrop features a cinerama oozing "generative art" by Brian Eno, animated Keith Haring graffiti and an hermaphrodite belly dancer the size of a skyscraper, it is going to be hard for a flesh and blood pop band to make an impression.

### Take 6

#### Festival Hall

THE voices are wonderful; if only the songs were half as interesting. If Take 6, that is, the vocalists of Seventh Day Adventist singers, truly represent the new wave of American gospel music, then the tradition is — as many traditionalists argue — passing through a fallow period.

This, though, was as much an informal religious gathering as a concert. If their audience goes home in a state of rapture — as it clearly did at the South Bank — then nothing else should matter. But their nagging feeling remains that the a cappella group is selling itself short.

It is probably unfair to blame them for that. If much of contemporary R&B has exchanged distinctive melody for an anodyne, pre-programmed backbeat, then contemporary church music is likely to do the same in order to attract young listeners who don't know their Fugees from their Roberta Flack.

Still, there were flourishes of rare virtuosity. Their imitation of a cymbal-snapping, swing-era jam session being swung to a style of showman-

CLIVE DAVIS

**Miracles**  
Albert Hall

WHY IS Nothing Hills the highest of the ten West London boroughs participating in last Thursday night's gala evening performed by and celebrating the city's youth? It was the home of the Ladbroke Grove riots, the place where the young mole the show. The teenage songstress could out-Whitney Whitney Houston and their dancing troupe could put most professional dancers to shame.

Of the other boroughs, Wandsworth combined heavy jungle sound track with an energetic mass dance, and close-harmony ripples of gorgeous gospel — from Brent's glamorous Foster sisters were drowned in applause. Southwark's Bollo Bridge youth club had devised a set in which strong female vocalists and rapping boys took turns in the spotlight, but were let down by a faulty sound system. On that huge stage the big sets worked best and Westminster was wise to wheel on a full cast from its recent production of *Bugs Malone* — a small group from Harrow had to shout to make its bathing philosophies sketch heard.

Between each number Mark Stephenson and London Musical ripped through a burst of American pops and robbers music. Without Stephenson's vision there would have been no event, but his orchestra seemed less and less central to the action as the evening wore on.

Finally, Paul Gladstone-Reid's new "mystery opera," *Miracles*, switched effortlessly between pop, soul, bel canto, show tune and rap, using a choir, orchestra, African drums, a rock band and the Albert Hall's organ.

As a rock oratorio it was highly enjoyable, not least because of Sharon Wray's lively chorography. As opera it was fairly lacking in glow. What Gladstone-Reid should do now is find a story and write a big-time musical, not a mammoth chorus line it is ready and waiting in West London.

HELEN WALLACE

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# Why whites need a good grievance

Quentin Letts says it's time to whine about the special relationship

American academics gathered recently at the University of California's Berkeley campus for the first American conference on "whiteness" studies. This new branch of scholarship, which earnestly applies itself to "white" cultural phenomena such as gun shows, bluegrass music and Appalachian coal miners' Spain and sour mash diets, is the inevitable progression of the various ethnic studies courses already so well established in America.

Any ambitious American university nowadays offers freshmen a baffling range of scholastic choices. There will be Afro-American literature, a Jewish-American history department, a school of women's studies, perhaps an Asian-American faculty. There will probably be optional seminars on Native American music, Hispanic poetry, Polynesian-American art, and Inuit-American traditions. Many courses are viewed by students as soft options, but in these days of mandatory multi-culturalism no one dares dissent. A friend who teaches at a Mid-Western university explained: "Sure, we all know it is a farce. But even if you have tenure you cannot tell the truth about ethnic studies."

It was either going to be "whiteness" or one-legged-Mexican-American studies next, and the whiteness lot got there first. As *The Wall Street Journal* reported last week, whiteness studies is at present mainly the study of America's "white underclass subculture" — in other words, the rednecks. There has, however, been some study of the whiteness of the oil dynasties around Houston, Texas, the "whiteness of shopping" and the "virtually white world of the Internet". When people use the net, allegedly, they tend to expect the person on the other end of the computer line to be white and male, and to be surprised if she is not.

Whiteness studies are, for the time being, chiefly the domain of guilt-stricken white intellectuals who feel they need to examine the vast grouping of non-dark-skinned humanity which they view as being the root of much evil. As one woman told the Berkeley conference, white culture must be properly identified so that an "action plan" can be assembled to fight "white privilege". When directed to such aims, whiteness studies become little more than an extension of black studies. But this need not be the case for long. White Americans, and their European cousins, could easily take hold of whiteness studies. They are the ethnic group being examined, so what would be more natural than to declare it their own, with a loud yelp about "pride in our heritage"?

The only way to fight political correctness, the grip of which on the American establishment can not be exaggerated, is *reductio ad absurdum*: employ the argot of protest and turn it on itself. Posing as interested, thoroughly committed students, we should surge aboard the whiteness studies and, with a merry twerk or two, turn it on our advantage.

In my pleasurable duties reporting from New York for *The Times*, I have tried, occasionally, to illustrate to British readers the extent to which ethnic subsets are taking over American political and intellectual life. It is a pattern which may very seriously damage Britain's relationship with the United States in the forthcoming decades, but which has been consistently ignored in London and by even-tolerant Wasp Americans.

The process usually begins with grand-sounding groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (the black power group), the Anti-Defamation League (the Jewish group) and the Ancient Order of Hibernians (the Irish group). All have creditable official goals, which are usually to reduce prejudice, hatred,

intolerance and so forth. From there, they move to the celebration of national days: the exuberant parades that seem to course up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue every week, whether it be Puerto Ricans or Greeks or Armenians.

In the usual scheme of things, some smaller, more politically agitated interest groups then arise, whose disjointed efforts sometimes call to mind the rival militia groups lampooned in Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. In New York's Jewish community, for instance, the action groups scurrying around in search of recruits include: American Academics for Israel's Future, the Free Middle East Network, the Christian Israel Public Action Campaign, Israel Action Alliance, the Emergency Committee for the Rebuilding of the Jewish Community of Argentina, the Queens Coalition Against Anti-Semitism, Women for Israel's Tomorrow... Well, you get the point.

Groups such as these tend to be terrific leafleters and pamphleteers. They also complain, vociferously, whenever they perceive a slight to "their" people. The result is that American politicians, particularly crowd-pleasers such as President Clinton, are keenly sensitive to this ethnic grievance industry. So the groups demand places at the table, secure themselves funding, and start to determine the agenda.

No one does this effectively in America for Britain. There are genteel outfits such as the English Speaking Union, whose members have a nostalgic fondness for the Empire and Churchill, but there is no one fighting in America's ethnic trenches for our culture and our political interests.

Last year there was a tentative proposal in New York for some Anglo-Americans to form a political action group that would seek to remind American politicians that a decent number of voters hail from the English West Country. It never got off the ground, alas, because the people involved were too busy; but the idea was sound.

It was suggested that St George's Day should be marked by an Anglo-American parade up Fifth Avenue, with the marchers wearing bowler hats and carrying furred umbrellas. When bombs erupted in Jerusalem, New York's Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani — aware of the Jewish vote — rushed to Israel to show "solidarity". When bombs erupted in London, why didn't he take the next British Airways flight to London? The Anglo-American group, had it ever come into being, might have asked that question with a show of indignation. It might also have stamped hard on the anti-Britishness to be found in newspapers such as New York's *Daily News*, in which an Irish-American columnist called Denis Hamill recently complained that he had been assigned jury duty on St Patrick's Day. The only thing that brightened him up, he said, was that he might get to sit in judgment on a "Brit defendant". Had the article been written about a Jewish defendant or a black defendant, Mr Hamill would have been torn limb from limb by the ethnic grievance industry.

By 2020, the United States may well have a President Rodriguez or a President Tau. Washington DC may no longer look automatically to Western Europe for allies. Nato may no longer interest her, and she may well be concentrating instead on solving the problems of South America or the Far East. One very good way for Europeans — and particularly the British — to try to stop that happening would be to seize on the ethnic grievance industry, to grasp ridiculous levers such as whiteness studies, and to complain in a shrill and persistent voice that we are victims. It is the only cry that modern America understands.

Tony Blair offers the very stuff of politics, the elixir of hope. Unfortunately, it may evaporate

## Victory at last for the social democrats

Presumably Tony Blair is going to be the next Prime Minister. However much one mistrusts the polls, and although there are still many undecided voters, it now seems that the question is how large Labour's majority will be. My personal sympathies are not against him. I have known all the Labour leaders since Attlee, and Tony Blair seems, along with Hugh Gaitskell, to be the best of them. He has shown political skill and toughness in converting the old Labour Party to social democracy. He is himself a social democrat rather than a socialist, and a right-wing social democrat at that. I have not found the Tories' personal attacks on him at all convincing, except on pensions. There, I think he must have known that the Labour accusation was not the truth; that is a pity, as I would like to have thought him above that. Yet I find him a sympathetic figure.

I also see the arguments for new Labour. There is, after 18 years, a natural desire for a change of government. Taking the period as a whole, the Conservatives have great achievements, but there have been bad mistakes, such as the handling of the 1990s recession. They now look as though they have used up their ideas and energy. Their stance on Europe may be greatly preferable to Labour's — I think it is — but John Major's own European policy has not been satisfactory from any point of view. New Labour offers some new hope, and hope is the elixir of politics.

Yet I worry, and I think most people do. In Scotland I found that Tony Blair had little personal popularity. Scotland has a social democratic tradition, but with cultural differences. Scottish opinion was much more comfortable with John Smith than with Tony Blair as leader of the Labour party. Mr Blair has said that the issue comes down to one of trust: he probably enjoys more trust among Tory

voters in South-East England than among Labour voters in Scotland. From that point of view, Labour's campaign has not been a success: Tony Blair seems to have won the election, but many voters have not warmed to him. Indeed there seems to be more warmth in public feeling for John Major, though not for his party.

The parallel with Bill Clinton is not reassuring. Like President Clinton, Tony Blair has both professionalised and depoliticised politics. He has spent the last three years eliminating the negative elements in his party's image, just as Clinton did. Labour's campaign has been a triumph for public relations, but has not revealed either what the party's core beliefs are, nor what policies are to be implemented in government. In personal terms, the parallel is unjust: Bill Clinton has far too many criminal associates, and Tony Blair is a man of integrity. In political terms, there is the same dangerous attitude, that appearances decide elections. The aggressive discipline imposed from the centre has made this worse. I am also worried by Mr Blair's so-called "modernism". He says he is a "modern" man, that he enjoys the now rather old-fashioned Beatles music that he has played in a gig, and that sort of thing. Modernism has very little to do with time: there have been modernists around at least since the age of the Romantic poets. Shelley was a modernist. It is not a question of period, but of

point of view, and the modernist view has often proved inadequate and detached from the real issues of life. The modernist and progressive culture of London tends to be self-regarding and elitist, more elitist than most Tories. New Labour shares this cultural superficiality: it reminds me of the soup Jane Austen wrote of in *Emma*: "a broth of nice smooth gruel, thin, but not too thin". Intellectually, the Blair campaign has been insubstantial.

But there are more important

seems to offer voters socialism without taxes, and markets without competition: it is a good way to win votes but a poor way to govern.

One can see this from a Thatcherite perspective. The Conservative Governments of 1951-64 were, in reality, social democratic administrations, believing in a mixed economy of socialism and free enterprise. They cost Britain a generation of economic growth, by failing to tackle the issues of deregulation, privatisation, taxation and trade union power that Margaret Thatcher dealt with in the 1980s. Tony Blair promises to preserve these reforms, and to that limited extent he is a Thatcherite. But old Labour voted against every one of them: no one can suppose that new Labour would have carried a single one of them through, any more than the Conservative social democrats did in the 1950s. A Blair government promises not to reverse the Thatcher reforms, but it will not carry them further.

There are also doubts about a party that promises to rebuild the health and education services without increasing the planned public expenditure or raising the marginal rate of tax. On this, the Liberal Democrats are right. Whenever a party claims to be able to do more without spending more, or to spend more without taxing more, there must be a catch. Tony Blair says that new Labour will have a Tory expenditure policy and a Tory taxation policy but a new Labour health and education policy. How

can that possibly be achieved?

The same problem arises over Europe. Tony Blair says that Labour will not be isolated in Europe, new Labour will stand up for British interests: new Labour may or may not join the single currency; new Labour will not take Britain into a European superstate. I have been a critic of Tory policy on Europe, but new Labour's policy is grotesque, no more than a jumble of contradictions. It is impossible to know what its European policy will be. The fact is that Germany and France are determined to create a single European superstate: the single currency is part of that plan: we do not know what Tony Blair will do about the single currency; he will not even allow his candidates to discuss it. Either the Eurosceptics or the Eurofanatics are about to be swindled.

When he arrives in Downing Street next Friday, the new Prime Minister will find that he has created expectations he cannot fulfil. He has spent the election reassuring the Right; now he has started to reassure the Left. He told *The Observer*: "I want the Left to realise that if we win this election we will have done so without ceding any ground that cannot be recovered. I am going to be a lot more radical in government than many people think." What did this mean? It must mean that he has not ceded any left-wing ground "that cannot be recovered", and that he intends to be "radical" in a left-wing sense.

I am sure the Left will not trust these implausible assurances, so why does he make them? Already something very important has been lost. If you do not tell the voters what you intend to do, you cannot get a mandate from them to do it. That is the inner failure of an outwardly successful campaign. If the issue is trust, as Tony Blair says, new Labour has disappointingly refused to earn it.

William Rees-Mogg

worries. Social democracy tries to straddle two political theories. Adam Smith Conservatives, such as Margaret Thatcher, believe that society advances by liberating the useful energies of individuals. "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest." Socialists, on the contrary, believe that the state should tax, regulate and provide. Social Democrats sometimes seem to believe in one theory and sometimes in the other, and while they pretend to both, they lack a ruling principle. This is however both the strength and the weakness of social democracy. It

## How much will change?

Don't expect a new Jerusalem, says Peter Riddell. Fresh battle lines are being drawn

Thursday's election is in danger of being misinterpreted. The probable outcome of a large Labour victory, only the third clearest win in the party's history, is being widely seen as a critical turning-point. For the Centre-Left, if not the old Left, it will be trumpeted as the dawn of a new progressive era, while, for the Tory Right, it will be presented as marking the rejection of the vacillations and betrayals of Majorism. A Labour landslide would certainly be dramatic, but it may not of itself represent a sea change in the direction of British politics.

Most elections which change governments are, at the time, more to do with the past than the future. The electorate's verdict is usually conditional and looks significant later only if the direction of policy really changes. We now look back on 1906 and 1979 as landmark elections because of later battles and achievements.

This election has been less about a choice of different policies than about the credibility of two alternative governing parties. It is about time for a change, not a crusade for a new Jerusalem. The Conservatives no longer look electable, while for the first in more than two decades, Labour does. A majority of the public is fed up with the Conservatives, but, crucially, no longer fears that Labour threatens its economic wellbeing.

Indeed, the Conservatives have got the better of Labour on many of the main economic arguments — for instance, over whether it will be possible to improve health



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

and education within existing tight spending constraints, and over privatisation. But much to the Tories' frustration, the public is no longer afraid of Labour. Warnings about a July Budget, spending "black holes" and future tax rises no longer have the power to win back wavering voters.

The campaign itself has probably made little difference. The elaborate planning and pretensions of Labour's war-room in Millbank have done wonders for the self-esteem and employment prospects of those involved, but have probably mattered only in preventing some of the mishaps of past campaigns — valuable in enforcing self-discipline, but not crucial.

Similarly, among the Conservatives the open defiance of the leadership line on a single currency by so many candidates, and the manoeuvring by future leadership contenders have obscured the

party's economic message, but have merely reinforced the existing impressions of disunity. All this may have made the Tories' position worse, but it will not have altered the outcome. A sudden decision to rule out membership of a single currency would not have won the election, but probably just heightened the splits. The election has been decided over the past five years rather than the past five weeks.

Yet the campaign has mattered in a more negative sense. Labour strategists are right. The public wants to get rid of the Conservatives, but not their policies, and it does not believe that Labour has a magic answer. A majority of the public doubts whether Labour will be able to keep all of its promises. The most revealing polling statistic of the campaign was not about

the Labour Party will also be shown in government. Meanwhile, he had no choice but to pursue a campaign of reassurance, in view of continuing public doubts about the party's attitudes on tax, spending and the unions. But Labour has, in the process, narrowed the political debate and its own room for manoeuvre in office. It risks being accused of betrayal if it raises taxes or squeezes spending on public spending. In that respect, the Liberal Democrats have stood alone in their candour about the real spending and tax options.

In electoral terms, Labour's strategists are right. The public wants to get rid of the Conservatives, but not their policies, and it does not believe that Labour has a magic answer. A majority of the public doubts whether Labour will be able to keep all of its promises. The most revealing polling statistic of the campaign was not about

voting intentions but about the economy. In the MORI poll for *The Times* last Thursday, nearly half of the public thinks that the Government has built strong foundations for economic recovery, against two-fifths in 1992; but some 28 per cent now also think it is time for a change of government. More than a quarter of the public therefore accepts the Tories' economic case but no longer believes that they should be in office. That is why they will lose.

So to conclude from defeat on Thursday that the party should charge off to the right could be as grievous an error as Labour made when it swung to the left in the early 1980s. In the past, the Conservatives' desire for power has acted as a rapid corrective, but the malaise is so serious now, that the party may have to go through very damaging convulsions first.

A Labour victory after so long will, of course, change the political mood and open up fresh possibilities. But a big majority should not be confused with a mandate for radical change. Labour has campaigned on a cautious, and often vague, platform and, as Mr Blair well knows, its first priority in office will be to show that it can govern competently.

Only if it succeeds will Labour be able to develop support for more radical changes. Whatever the size of majority on Thursday, it will be a long time before we will know whether the 1997 election was as decisive as 1979 later turned out to be, or was a short-lived triumph like 1966. That depends not just on how Labour performs in office, but on how quickly the Tories come to their senses in opposition.

## Wrongfooted

THERE were hard hearts at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel last week when Michael Foot, now 83, turned up to seek refuge there during a bomb-scare, with Dizzy, his 17-year-old Tibetan terrier named after Disraeli.

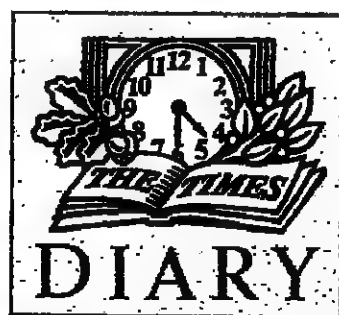
Foot had taken Dizzy out on the hustings around Lancaster Gate, west London, gallantly canvassing for new Labour, when news of the possible bomb reached him. He decided that it would be sensible to take refuge in the hotel and pitched up at the front door.

The porter at the door took a look at Foot, then glanced at Dizzy, who returned the compliment. But when the former Labour leader asked gently whether they would be allowed in to rest for a short while, the imperious little doorman remarked that this would be more than his job was worth. Dogs, he explained, were not allowed in, whatever the circumstances and whoever the owner.

Foot turned away disconsolately with Dizzy at heel, and took his rest on the hotel steps. "It was utterly ridiculous," he said afterwards, "but I don't want to speak on the matter." Foot now plans to boycott



The great outsider



the establishment, and is apparently urging others to do likewise.

### In the air

REHEARSALS FOR the English National Ballet's *Swan Lake* at the Royal Albert Hall in June have proved testing for the artistic direc-

tor, Derek Deane, who is a regular walker of Princess Margaret.

To accommodate his cast of 125 girls — the ballet is billed as the biggest ever produced — Deane has rented a Territorial Army barracks on the outskirts of the City. He now has to direct affairs precariously at the top of a 20ft ladder, though he regrets that he is unable to prance about along with his cast.

### Distaff side

THE LATEST skirmish in the battle of the sexes is being fought in the heraldry offices of Dublin Castle. Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland, has been awarded the first politically correct coat of arms by the Irish Chief Herald. She receives her arms in the shape of a shield, a design formerly reserved for men.

In Ireland, as in England and Scotland, women are usually awarded a diamond escutcheon, but in December last year the Chief Herald in Dublin felt that this discrimination was no longer acceptable. Fergus Gillespie, the Deputy Chief

Herald, said: "They've got a thing over here called women's lib, and so we thought we would change the rules to show willing."

### Sympatico

JUST a week after the Tories demanded that Labour's theme tune,



"The polls are still in our favour"

Things Can Only Get Better, be removed from the BBC's omnibus edition of *EastEnders*, their own party anthem is to be broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Bantock's *Celtic Symphony*, the official Conservative tune, will be played for a full 20 minutes on Monday morning's episode of *On Air*.

"We decided on the programme before we realised that the *Celtic Symphony* had been adopted by the Tories," a Radio 3 spokesman says. "It is too late to change our plans now to suit Labour."

### Iris bloomer

TOP MODELS have never earned so little. Iris Palmer, whose aristocratic scowl can earn her up to £10,000 a day, has just accepted the position of editor-at-large of *Chap Date*, an amateur fashion magazine specialising in second-hand clothes. Her duties include commissioning articles and modelling charity shop frocks. Among her similarly well-connected staff will be Minnie Weiss, sister of the actress Rachel, and the aspiring



Iris: amateur role

Mills & Boon novelist Bella Shand. An insider reveals that Miss Palmer's pay packet will be "nominal" but says that she has settled in well to her new offices — a grubby kitchenette in Notting Hill, west London.

P.H.S

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 28 1997

SCEPTIC

HANDS AC

LESSONS

DREAM

Oxford and Islar

The proposed by the Oxford Islamic Studies Centre to build a mosque at the site of the ancient city of Jericho, a site of great archaeological importance, has provoked a heated debate among archaeologists. With a number of places in the programme of discussion, the site, on the edge of the last open green field areas in the city, is a synthesis of Moorish and Islamic architecture, and the beauty of Venetian Alhambra, both blends of East and West. Academically, the new centre will be a success. The Oxford Islamic Studies Centre was founded five years ago, with generous funding by Saudi Arabia, to promote the study of Islam in Britain. It aims to act as a bridge between Western Muslims now living in Britain, who delivered their celebratory message at its inauguration. Since then, it has held a series of conferences, attracted a nucleus of scholars, begun a publishing programme, and funded a Prince of Wales Chair in Islamic Studies. The centre is not whether Britain needs such intellectual recognition of the minority faith in this country is the freedom of thought, and the analysis that are rare in the Muslim world. And if so, is Oxford the right sponsor? The university should have no in embracing the centre. The study





## SCEPTICAL VOTERS

Still time to cross-examine candidates on Europe

To no one's surprise, but at neither Mr Major's or Mr Blair's initial behest, Britain's relationship with its European partners has become a dominant issue in this election campaign. While the Tory and Labour leaders have fought to make education or the constitution the battleground two other men have made the weather. Paul Sykes and Jacques Santer have ensured that Europe has become the election issue whose salience has risen most in the public mind. The scale of Conservative dissent, with hundreds of candidates saying no to EMU, and the scale of continental ambition, with no alternative entertained to further integration, has prompted voters motivated by Europe to ask who they should support. That process of questioning is wise and necessary. In the days remaining it should be conducted with even greater intensity.

Both parties have articulated their policy in the tones of a Churchill while the detail is closer to Chamberlain. To help cut through the verbal camouflage we print on pages 10 and 11 a guide to how a Eurosceptic might wish to cast his or her ballot. The guide could, equally well, be employed by an enthusiast for integration to identify like-minded candidates. Because of the convergence bordering on collusion which marks the approach towards the single currency of the Labour and Tory leaderships it is important that voters should have a proper chance to know what their individual candidates believe.

As the guide makes clear, such an exercise is not easy. Tory candidates have responded to the offer of financial support from Mr Sykes and the shifting mood in the country

by inserting codicils, some quite dubious, into their election manifestos. The voter should be rightly wary of those candidates who cannot "foresee" Britain entering a single currency at the moment. Pledges such as those should be tested more closely. It was by such an equivocation that Michael Heseltine masked his ambition, claiming he could not foresee the circumstances in which he might challenge Mrs Thatcher. Circumstances change, principles do not.

If anything, it is more difficult to know the real beliefs of Labour candidates. When it comes to Europe they are like characters in a new *Dunciad*: "universal darkness covers all". Some have, by past affiliation, clear form. A very few others, such as Denis Davies, are not ashamed to proclaim their position on the hustings. Most Labour candidates, however, have refrained from sharing with the voters their views on the most momentous decision Britain will have to face since the war. Labour's leader has argued there are "formidable obstacles" to be overcome before Britain enters a single currency but those obstacles seem, again, to be matters of external circumstance, not internal principle.

Both leaderships have made feints and thrusts on the European question. Their real intentions and the disposition of many footsolders is yet still uncertain. Voters, armed with our guide, should challenge their candidates, find out what their genuine views are and ask for principled commitments. All candidates should be encouraged to declare their hands. The party machines do not wish to be bound, but the voters should not have to choose blind.

## HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN

Lessons from Clinton to Blair

Elections are sometimes best seen through the eyes of foreigners. The host of US correspondents covering this contest have been struck by the similarities between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton. The parallels are hardly original and have, at times, been encouraged by the Labour leadership. But the disillusionment with Mr Clinton felt by the US press has meant that Mr Blair's imitation has not led to flattering comments.

The Blair-Clinton kinship has also been much overstated. There are differences between the two systems of government, political circumstances and the personalities concerned. Despite that, the polished character and thin content of the Labour campaign has made the Clinton comparison irresistible. In his interview with *The Times* last week, Mr Blair himself noted by way of defence that President Clinton had at least been re-elected.

In this election Labour has been supremely cautious, embracing relatively small policy proposals and rejecting its tax-and-spend past. It has targeted the middle-class and remained remorselessly "on message". The image has been carefully honed and it has created the charge that traditional constituencies have been abandoned. Such a strategy clearly echoes Mr Clinton's second-term formula.

The Arkansas Democrat was far more ambitious when he first sought office. Then Governor Clinton favoured an energetic economic plan based on a \$220 billion programme of state-sponsored high technology investments. He promised a fundamental reform of the American health care system. He pledged radical change in the welfare system. These were specific objectives if vague in their details. The agenda was certainly distinctive from that regularly presented by his party. But it was far from incremental.

Once elected, President Clinton con-

fronted the realities of the American Constitution. A powerful Congress and a divided Democratic Party asserted their supremacy. A disillusioned public ensured a Republican landslide in 1994. A chastened Mr Clinton, influenced by Dick Morris his new pollster, charged to the centre ground and embraced low-calorie conservatism in 1996. That shift, combined with the excessive zeal of Newt Gingrich, brought its rewards.

Mr Blair, assuming an overall majority on May 1, would face no such institutional obstacles. The House of Commons would be compliant, his parliamentary troops mostly passive, and he would be excused a rendezvous with the ballot box for five years. No American President has such advantages. Yet the Labour manifesto is much closer to the second Clinton effort: a document that was predominantly devoid of vision and fashioned by defeat in 1994.

The Labour leader believes that he has learnt from Mr Clinton. His associates would argue that while the President campaigned as a "New Democrat" in 1992 he became an "Old Democrat" in the Oval Office. Americans felt cheated and voted for a conservative Congress. But another interpretation is truer. Mr Clinton attempted a "New Democrat" agenda from the start: fiscal responsibility, free trade, and a mixed state-market approach to social issues.

He failed because the "New Democrat" formula had such shallow intellectual and political foundations. It may be neither "Old Left" nor "New Right" but negatives alone do not create a coherent philosophy or a base in the country. In the end it could not deliver. That is why Mr Clinton eventually retreated into electoral opportunism. Many spurious Anglo-American comparisons will doubtless be offered in the final days of campaigning that remain but the fate of the New Democrats is still one that should preoccupy Mr Blair and new Labour.

## DREAMING MINARETS

Oxford and Islam should learn from each other

The proposal by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies to build a mosque in the centre of the ancient city will provoke heated debate among architects. Will a minaret be out of place in the panorama of dreaming spires? Should the site, on the edge of Magdalen deer park, be preserved as one of the last open green field areas in the city? Or could a synthesis of Moorish and Gothic bring to Oxford the beauty of Venice and the Alhambra, both blends of East and West?

Academically the new centre will also be under scrutiny. The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies was founded five years ago with generous funding by Saudi Arabia and Brunel to promote the study of Islam in Britain. Its aim, to act as a bridge between Western scholarship and more than a million Muslims now living in Britain, has been warmly supported by the Prince of Wales, who delivered his celebrated eulogy of Islam at its inauguration. Since then the centre has held a series of academic conferences, attracted a nucleus of reputable scholars, begun a publishing programme and funded a Prince of Wales Chair for the Study of the Islamic World. The question is: whether Britain needs such a centre; such intellectual recognition of the largest minority faith in this country is overdue. More to the point, will the centre encourage the freedom of thought and dispassionate analysis that are rare in the Muslim world and anathema in Saudi Arabia, its main sponsor? And if so, is Oxford the right place? The university should have no hesitation in embracing the centre. The study of Arabic

and Islam has a long and honourable tradition in Britain, and for centuries Oxford has been pre-eminent in this field. Indeed, the university owes more to Islam than most of its students or scholars may realise. Not only is the typical college modelled on similar walled gardens of learning that flourished in the East; but it was Muslims who for all the centuries of Europe's Dark Ages preserved and enriched the ancient learning that was rediscovered in the century when the first Oxford colleges were founded. Indeed, Gibbon, in one of his rare flights of historical speculation, declared that had Charles Martel not defeated the Saracens at Poitiers in 732 "the Arabian fleet might have sailed without a naval combat into the mouth of the Thames. Perhaps the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford".

It is also important for the future of Islam in Britain and abroad that what looks set to become an influential research centre should be in a city such as Oxford. The West has watched with concern the rise of Islamic political extremism in countries such as Algeria, Iran and Afghanistan, where the values and enlightenment of Islamic learning have been extinguished by fanaticism, obscurantism and ignorance. If an Islamic renaissance, absorbing and synthesising modern learning and technology, is to enrich the religion's one billion adherents there are few more conducive cities than Oxford. Here, at last, the Christian cloister and mosque courtyard can rediscover their intellectual as well as architectural affinities.

## Academics opt for change on May 1

From Dr David Halpern and others

Sir, Party splits and negative campaigning have been the focus of the current election campaign. But it is extremely important that these do not obscure the real issues at stake.

Do the constitution and the machinery of government need reforming? Do we need a higher priority on investment in education, training and on the active creation of opportunities for the unemployed?

Do we believe that there is an essential role for the State in ensuring certain types of universal provision, such as for healthcare and environmental protection? Should our strategy towards Europe be one of constructive engagement?

We believe that the answer to these questions is "yes". Considered change in these areas is essential for the future prosperity and regeneration of Britain, and for this we need a change of government. We come from diverse fields of policy and academia and will be voting for and supporting such a change on May 1. We hope that reflecting on the issues will bring others to do the same.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HALPERN  
(University of Cambridge),  
DAVID CURRIE  
(London Business School),  
RICHARD DAWKINS  
(University of Oxford),  
ANTHONY GIDDENS  
(Director, LSE),  
JONI LOVENDUSKI  
(Southampton University),  
QUENTIN SKINNER  
(University of Cambridge),  
Faculty of Social and  
Political Sciences,  
8 Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB3 9BA,  
April 25.

## Silicone implants

From Mr Simon Kay

Sir, Dr Stuttaford does women a service (Body and Mind, April 17) in highlighting the benefit of breast reconstruction after mastectomy and of augmentation following spontaneous loss of breast tissue. Given the history of many "failed" innovations in implant technology, however, I would have preferred a more cautious appraisal of Trilucent implants, whose increased radiolucency allows more accurate mammography.

Following the "silicone scare" of recent years a number of new designs for breast implants have appeared, and yet research conducted in many Western countries has failed to show convincingly — the problems with mammography aside — any serious or significant risk associated with the conventional silicone implants. Britain has taken a particularly responsible view of this matter, monitoring the use of such implants and analysing the huge amount of research data now available on the issue of safety.

This has not stopped the welcome development of new implants and, in the case of Trilucent, marketing directly to the public. Patients now commonly insist upon receiving this implant in the belief, apparently shared by Dr Stuttaford, that an implant filled with oil prepared from soybeans must be safer than one filled with silicone, soy oil being a biodegradable food-stuff.

The truth is that we will not know for a number of years whether these implants are totally resistant to bacterial growth or, more importantly perhaps, to fungal growth, or how in the long term their leakage will compare with other products and whether there might be an unsuspected consequence of contact with soybean oil at body temperature over many years.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON KAY  
(Consultant in plastic and reconstructive surgery),  
Bupa Hospital,  
Roundhay Hall, Jackson Avenue,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire,  
April 18.

## Church welcome

From Mrs Susan M. Barnard

Sir, I read with interest Mrs Jane Haworth's letter (April 22) concerning the Church of England and in particular her observation that only confirmed members of the Church can participate fully in Holy Communion.

I have often wondered why this should be so. It is particularly unfortunate that the minimum recommended age for confirmation in the Church of England (11) all too often coincides with the time when youngsters (hitherto raised on a diet of compulsory Sunday school) lose interest in church attendance.

The Church of England might do well to consider the system practised by the Roman Catholic Church, where first Communion and confirmation are completely separate ceremonies. Roman Catholic children receive their first Communion at the age of seven or thereabouts, and hence are able to participate fully in the service of Holy Communion from a much younger (and more impressionable) age than their Anglican counterparts.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN M. BARNARD,  
4 Egerton Drive,  
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire,  
April 22.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Business warned against Labour

From Lord Sheppard of Didgmore and others

Sir, Through your newspaper we wish to send a message to Britain's younger managers and business people.

With global markets, the competition you face today is tougher than it was in the Sixties and Seventies. The difference between success and failure is frighteningly small but determines jobs and living standards. However, you have a major advantage now that we did not have then — a business climate which enables you to run your operations effectively.

Twenty years ago enterprise had been suffocated by socialist dogma: being a manager or earning a profit was frowned upon. "They" always knew better. Managers were so pre-occupied dealing with the unions and shop stewards that they often forgot to involve their fellow employees.

It took a great effort from everyone and four Conservative Governments to restore the spirit of enterprise fully and make our businesses competitive

again in world markets. During that period overseas attitudes towards us moved from sympathy to emulation.

We want you to look forward and to keep winning for Britain — however we can all learn from history. The Labour Party may claim to help business but in reality, with its interventionist and over-regulatory attitudes, it has and will always handicap management.

On May 1 you have a choice: you can either take a chance with Britain's hard-won success or you can trust the party which has proven its belief in enterprise. Not the most difficult decision you will face this year — but certainly the most important.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLEN SHEPPARD,  
MICHAEL EDWARDES,  
HANSON,  
STANLEY KALMS,  
KING OF WARTNABY,  
IAN MACLAURIN,  
20 Cockspur Street, SW1,  
April 25.

## Immigration as an election issue

From Mr David Coleman

Sir, Your articles on race and immigration as election issues (April 18) gave a fair and balanced treatment of a complex situation. I was surprised, however, that more was not made of the fact that immigration has generally been increasing in recent years and that over the past decade the UK has become a net importer of people.

The Home Office figures which you cite of 55,480 "acceptances for settlement" in 1995 relate mostly to people who actually arrived in previous years. They also take no account of the large number of immigrants (UK citizens among them) each year who were "not accepted for settlement", nor of the many emigrants leaving the country.

The estimates of gross and net migration flows given by the International Passenger Survey, which are those used for official data and projections, also show an upward trend. Even so, they undercount net immigration to the UK (by an average of 20,000 people per year) by omitting the "visitor switches" — ie, those who enter on various short-term pretexts and stay here by subsequently claiming asylum or by marriage. When these figures are taken into account, net immigration increases from about

55,000 in 1984 to 106,000 in 1994.

Even that figure excludes those asylum claimants (about a third of the total) who claim asylum at the point of entry to the UK. Most claimants and their dependants are believed to remain here, even though most claims are rejected as unfounded. Less than one in ten is removed or is known to leave. They too should be added to immigration figures on any common-sense basis.

Two further points are relevant. Labour's proposals, confirmed in their manifesto, to make immigration easier for purposes of marriage and to scrap recent legislation on asylum claiming have attracted surprisingly little interest. We should recall, as the election approaches, that citizens of Commonwealth countries who live in the UK (and Irish citizens) retain the right to vote in UK national elections without becoming British citizens first — a privilege which has no parallel in mainland Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID COLEMAN,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Applied Social Studies  
and Social Research,  
Barnett House,  
Wellington Square, Oxford,  
April 18.

## Chips with everything

From Eur Ing William Neil

Sir, In his letter today Professor Emeritus Rose-Innes claims that the silicon chip has made "a very large contribution to unemployment". I too am an electrical engineer and would point out that it has created more jobs than it has destroyed. In the same way that the motor car created more jobs than were lost in the horse and stagecoach industry.

There are millions more people in jobs today than there were 40 years ago, and the number of engineering graduates coming out of our universities compared with 1957 is several orders of magnitude higher.

Any "downsizing" which has taken place in the ex-nationalised industries was long overdue, and was a result of work by efficient managers who had had the dead hand of the Civil Service removed from them. Some companies, such as BT, clearly require fewer technicians because of the chip, but the growth of jobs with alternative telecom suppliers far outweighs those lost.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM NEIL,  
1 Cobden Avenue,  
Caversham, Berkshire,  
April 21.

From Flight Lieutenant  
M. Rubenstein, RAF

Sir, Professor Rose-Innes "cannot think of an industry or business where the need for manpower has not been substantially reduced by the computer and automation". I can think of two: the computer industry and the automation industry.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN RUBENSTEIN,  
Trenchard Hall Officers' Mess,  
Royal Air Force Cranwell,  
Sleaford, Lincolnshire,  
April 22.

From Mr Harry Cooksley

Sir, I would suggest that my own profession, that of funeral directing, is unlikely to be challenged by either the computer or automation industry.

Microchips do not turn out at night to attend a death. Nor do they help the bereaved before, during and after a funeral when sensitive personal skills are required. They do not prepare and dress the deceased, carry the coffins, nor clean the cars.

It is true that we use computers for word-processing and accounts, but I imagine that any saving in man (or woman) power is more than offset by the need for extra lumberjacks and papermill workers to feed these machines' insatiable appetite for paper.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY COOKSLEY,  
Church Farm House,  
Wickham Way,  
East Brent, Somerset,  
April 22.

## Crime and punishment

From Mr E. C. Hicks, JP

Sir, Mr J. A. Davis, former Clerk to the Kingston upon Thames Justices, laments the demise of unit fines (letter, April 22). I doubt if many of his erstwhile colleagues share his views.

For those who sat on the bench, operating the system was a nightmare. We found ourselves haplessly imposing sentences which were ludicrously high or ridiculously low, which we had no discretion to vary.

Among many defects the fundamental one was that the bench could take into consideration only the defendant's means. Yet in sentencing several factors must be taken into account, means to pay being only one. Anyone involved during the trauma of 1992-93 who still feels that the system prescribed by the 1991 Act was a success should lie down quietly in a darkened room until the feeling goes away.

Yours faithfully,  
E. C. HICKS,  
Scarthwaite,  
Grange-in-Borrowdale,  
Keswick, Cumbria,  
April 23.

From Mr Geoffrey McLean

Sir, If the financial punishment for crime should be related to income, how would Messrs Fred Wachsbarger (letter, April 15) and Julian Calderara (April 22) have calculated the scale of fines to which I would have been subject during the years 1987 to 1992, when my income as a Lloyd's name was negative?

Perhaps I would have received a bonus, increasing with the seriousness of my offence.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY MCLEAN,  
PO Box 324,  
Wolverhampton WV6 7EP,  
April 22.

## Too many cats

From Ms Leonora Digby Smith

Sir, Surely Mr F. Paul Taylor (letter, April 25) is too hard on cats, which are only doing what comes naturally.

At least the birds they catch are free-range, unlike the millions of cruelly factory-farmed hens that are consumed by humans in this country each year.

Yours faithfully,  
LEONORA DIGBY SMITH,  
4a Sharpleshall Street,  
Primrose Hill, NW1,  
April 25.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

## Ex-Tories' at home with Lib Dems

From Miss Emma Nicholson and others

Sir, Many people who have traditionally supported the Conservative Party are very unhappy at the prospect of doing so at this election.

We have all left the Conservative Party during the last Parliament sickened by the slide into hysterical anti-Europeanism, by an unworthy tolerance of sleaze and by uncaring social policies.

We appeal to all Conservative voters from the One Nation tradition to vote Liberal Democrat on Thursday. We feel at home with a patriotic, non-socialist party that cares for all our people, is committed to a strong Britain in Europe, and which has campaigned on the need to invest in health and education.

When the Conservative Party relapses into deep internal schism after the election we shall need a strong united Liberal Democrat presence in the next Parliament more than ever.

Yours faithfully,  
EMMA NICHOLSON,  
PETER THURNHAM,  
DAVID DEAR  
(Councillor, Bromley),  
ISOBEL FRASER  
(Councillor, Milton Keynes),  
PETER MULLINS (County  
Councillor, Buckinghamshire),  
JIMMY NAIRN  
(Councillor, Berwickshire),  
JENNY RILEY (Liberal Democrat  
Parliamentary Candidate, Wantage),  
SINCLAIR WEBSTER  
(Councillor, Woking),  
Liberal Democrats,  
Party Headquarters,  
4 Cowley Street, SW1,  
April 26.

## Rebuke for TV

From Mr Robert Watson

Sir, A hearty welcome for the rebuke by Mr Peter Rogers, Chief Executive of the Independent Television Commission, over ITV's endless diet of soaps and drama serials (reports, April 23). Not only have *Coronation Street* and *The Bill* recently extended their coverage but the content has changed to turgid melodrama, family feuds and, in the case of the latter, rape. Both used to be light-hearted family viewing.

You also reported (later editions and see letters, April 25) a ban by major TV companies of the Profile Alliance's election broadcast pictures of the effects of abortion. Presumably they will continue to show films depicting violence and obscenities, with inadequate warnings.

All good wishes to the ITC. Their report is a beacon in the gathering gloom.

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. WATSON,  
16 Riddy Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire,  
April 25.

## Defence of choirs

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN

Sir, Maybe our cathedral choirs are "happily ignored by the entire population" (Richard Morrison, April 14; letter, April 23) but there are huge rewards for those who discover one of this nation's best-kept secrets.

As the privileged father of two choristers at Winchester choir school some years ago I used to come in from weeks of technological hyperactivity in a nuclear submarine in the deep, cold Atlantic to the incomparable peace and beauty of a weekday choral Evensong.

As a means of restoring normality and mental equilibrium I would strongly recommend these services to anyone caught up in the stresses of modern living. Not only is the singing beautiful, it also costs nothing to listen — which could be one reason why cathedral choirs are not more highly prized.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD SHARPE  
(Editor, *Jane's Fighting Ships*),  
Foundry House,  
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire,  
April 25.

## Victory anthem?

From the Director of Music,  
Strathallan School

Sir, What about an anthem for choral Evensong on election day (letters, April 22, 23, 24)?

S. S. Wesley offers a number of possibilities, among them *Cast me not away*. *Thou wilt keep Him*, or even *The Wilderness*.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID G. READ,  
Director of Music,  
Strathallan School,  
Forgandenny, Perth,  
April 24.

From the Parish Clerk of  
St Dunstan-in-the-West

Sir, Why should your correspondents assume that the Church of England has got it right on the general election when it seems to have got almost everything else wrong in the past 50 years?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID POWELL,  
Parish Clerk,  
St Dunstan-in-the-West,  
18ba Fleet Street, EC4,  
April 24.







## OBITUARIES

## PENG ZHEN

Peng Zhen, former Politburo member and Mayor of Beijing, died in Beijing on April 26 aged 95. He was born in 1902.

Peng Zhen was the oldest and highest ranking of the veteran revolutionaries associated with the entire span of the Communist revolution and the major events after the Communist victory in 1949. With his death there survive only three of China's "Eight Immortals", leaders revered for their long service to the revolution and to the Party. Peng's own career included virtually every high and low moment of China's modern history since he joined the Party in 1923, only two years after it was founded.

It is a mark of Peng's importance and seniority that in 1963 Chairman Mao considered him as a possible successor to President Liu Shaoqi, and thus to himself, and that in 1966 Peng became the first high-ranking victim of the Cultural Revolution. After his rehabilitation in 1978, brought back to power with the re-emergence of Deng Xiaoping, Peng continued into his very old age to play an active role, usually aligned with the leadership's more cautious elements, but always devoted to Deng.

In 1989 Deng brought him out of official retirement to join the group of veteran grandees which directed the Tiananmen crackdown: it was Peng who accused Zhao Ziyang, Party General Secretary who had been somewhat sympathetic to the students of "working with hostile forces" to overthrow the Chinese Communist Party and disrupt the socialist system — the charge which resulted in Zhao's house arrest to this day.

Peng Zhen was born in north China's Shanxi province, to a peasant family. Unusually for a poor boy he was able to secure a middle school education; during that time he joined the underground Communist Youth League and in 1923 the Party itself. In that year he was briefly arrested; this would recur in 1936 by which time he



was on the North China Bureau of the Central Committee. After the Long March in 1936 Peng was active in regions of north China away from the main guerrilla base at Yanan. In 1945 he was elevated to full membership in the Central Committee and in 1951 rose to the Politburo and became Mayor of Beijing.

During the late 1950s, Peng was a major figure in the various campaigns against "counter-revolutionaries" inside and outside the Party, and after the humiliation of Mao and other top leaders during the Hundred Flowers movement of 1957, it was Peng who led the five-man group in the anti-Rightist

drive against intellectuals during which 400,000 people were purged, some of them for more than 20 years.

But in 1961, after the disastrous famine of 1959-61, during the Great Leap Forward, Peng was part of a group around Deng which considered laying the blame at the feet of Mao. But when it came to making a public report Peng could not face the consequences of such an act. It may have been for such loyalty that Mao considered Peng as a candidate to succeed him, but this also may have been one of the Chairman's manoeuvres to build a coalition against those who had criticised him which eventually led, beginning in 1966, to

Mao's purge of virtually the entire top leadership, beginning with Peng.

The immediate cause of Peng's purge was that Wu Han, his deputy as mayor of Beijing, had written a play purporting to be about Hai Rui, an honest 17th-century official who had dared to criticise the Ming emperor and was punished. This was seen as a covert attack on Mao's purge of Marshal Peng Dehuai who had blamed him for causing the 1959 famine. The purge of the Beijing hierarchy, led by Peng, is usually seen as the opening salvo of the Cultural Revolution.

After his rehabilitation in 1978, Peng stuck closely to Deng and joined him in the 1980s in his attacks on "bourgeois liberalisation" and "spiritual pollution", code words for Western liberal ideas and in January, 1987 Peng was one of those who brought down Hu Yaobang, then Party General Secretary, partly because Hu was seen as slightly too sympathetic to students — this prefigures the purge in 1989 of Zhao Ziyang, Hu's successor — but also because Hu was threatening to take action against the "princelings", corrupt offspring of the senior leaders.

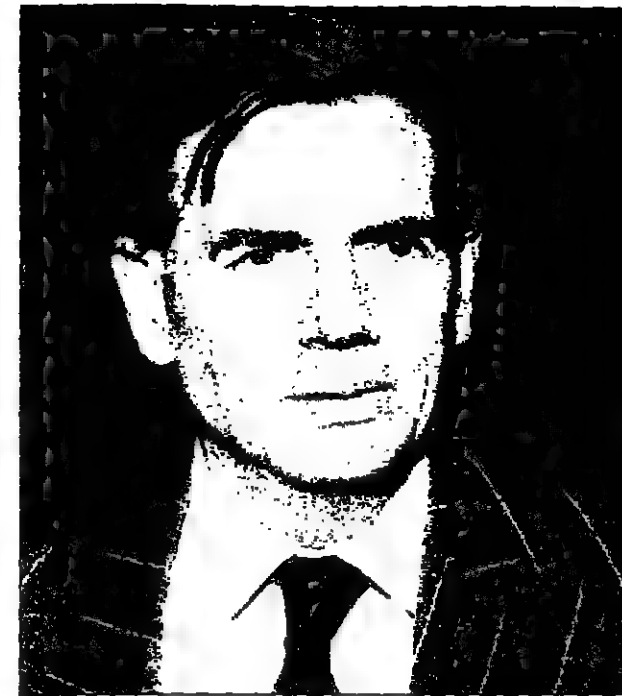
Peng relinquished his last official post, chairman of the National People's Congress in 1988, but remained one of China's most powerful leaders. Although an economic conservative, sceptical of Deng's reforms, in 1992 when Deng challenged the Party leadership in back him, Peng was loud in his support.

It is believed that in 1989, when Deng singled out Jiang Zemin as "core leader" and President, Peng favoured Politburo member Qiao Guili. It was Qiao who oversaw the *qingshi*, the "letting out" of tens of thousands within the Party who were said to have wavered during the Tiananmen period, an effort wholly approved by Peng. Because "Immortals" like Peng were untouchable, President Jiang was forced to heed their advice and notice their feelings. With him gone, Jiang will have a freer hand.

He is survived by four sons and a daughter.

## SIR NICHOLAS BAKER

Sir Nicholas Baker, former Conservative MP for North Dorset, died of cancer on April 25 aged 58. He was born on November 23, 1938.



A DEDICATED constituency MP, Nicholas Baker served as Conservative member for North Dorset for nearly 18 years. But it was his ill fortune to be principally remembered as the man who rejected the citizenship applications of Mohamed Al Fayed and his brother Ali, thereby provoking many of the Conservative Party's current troubles.

Baker first attracted public attention when he declared in the Commons, a year after his 1979 election to his North Dorset seat, that the headless expansion of tourism in London was turning the capital into an uninteresting museum. Restaurant facilities, spawned to cater for the tourist trade, were often dirty and untidy, he said, and whole sections of the city, overcrowded with hotels, were becoming dormitories for tourists. High rents drove rightful residents away.

In his rural constituency he campaigned against out of town supermarkets, advocated the setting up of village housing trusts to provide low cost accommodation and fought to have the bones of the Anglo Saxon King of England, St Edward the Martyr, returned to what he said was their rightful resting place in Shaftesbury Abbey.

In Parliament from 1994 he proved a steadfast member of Home Secretary Michael Howard's ministerial team. He played a considerable role in passing legislation to extend public licensing hours and defended Government policies on asylum applications. When he retired because of ill health in 1995 he was also working on the framing of legislation involving tighter immigration procedures to stop racketeers who make millions of pounds out of arranging bogus marriages.

Nicholas Baker was educated at St Neot's School in Hampshire and Clifton College, Bristol. Called up for National Service from 1957 until 1959 he was commissioned into the King's African Rifles in Tanganyika (now Tanzania). He was to maintain an abiding love of Africa and an interest in the evolving relationships between developed and developing countries. Even in the last year of

his life he published a pamphlet setting out proposals for redefining British priorities for aid. He also had great respect for the benefits of National Service and later advocated the return of some form of this whereby young people could choose to work in the community, either at home or overseas.

He went on to study Greats at Exeter College, Oxford. There he was an active member of his college debating society. He was also president of the Oxford Carlton Club, executive officer of the Oxford University Conservative Association and editor of *Oxford Tory*.

He was articled and qualified as a solicitor with the firm Richards, Butler in 1967. A solicitor, specialising in company and commercial law, he joined the London firm Frere Cholmeley (later Frere Cholmeley Bischoff) in 1973 as a partner. He was to become solicitor to the Beatles and to their record company Apple.

He was a founder of the Bransford branch of the North Kensington Conservative Association and was its chairman from 1964 until 1968. He was also vice chairman of the North Kensington Conservative Association from 1967 to 1969.

In 1971 he was adopted as the prospective parliamentary candidate for Southwark, Peckham, contesting the seat in both elections in 1974. He also served as secretary of the

Bow Group, 1970-71, and political officer, 1971-72. At this time he produced the first of several policy pamphlets on subjects of special interest to him, including company law, rural housing and rural planning.

In 1979 he was elected Conservative MP for Dorset North. He was one of the first of that year's intake of new MPs to be offered a ministerial appointment. To the surprise of several colleagues at the time, he declined this offer, preferring to spend as much time as he could with his young family.

He did, however, become PPS to a succession of ministers culminating with Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence in 1984, and to Lord Young, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, after Heseltine's resignation in January 1987.

In 1989 he was appointed a junior whip and was promoted to a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in the following year, remaining in the whips office until 1994. In that year he was appointed Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, but had to resign the next year because of ill health.

He was knighted in the New Year's Honours earlier this year by the Queen's representative who visited him in his hospital bed.

He is survived by his wife Carol, whom he married in 1970 and by their son and daughter.

## JOAN LADY CAMROSE

Joan Lady Camrose, mother of the Aga Khan, died on April 25 aged 89. She was born on April 22, 1908.

A RENOWNED beauty of her day, Joan Lady Camrose was to play host to a circle of socialites, intellectuals, politicians and diplomats in London. Her list of acquaintances was as eclectic as it was sophisticated, including as it did such figures as Evelyn Waugh, Randolph Churchill, Margaret Fonteyn, Nancy Mitford, Lord Birkenhead, Malcolm Muggeridge, Freya Stark, Harold Acton, Edward Heath and Cecil Beaton — she was instrumental in launching the photographic career of the last. Her choice of companions reflected her own wide range of interests.

Joan Barbara Yarde-Buller was the eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Curzon. Her mother, who later remarried to become the Duchess of Leinster, was a talented musician. One of her sisters, Princess Alexandra, married the Earl of Cadogan. Another, Lydia, became the Duchess of Bedford. She herself married three times.

The first marriage was to Thomas Loe Guinness, of the banking family. A son, Patrick, was born but died in a car accident in the 1960s. The second was to Prince Aly Khan, son of Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III, renowned as Imam of 15 million Ismaili Muslims, twice president of the League of Nations and five times winner of the Epsom Derby.

Prince Aly and Joan married in Paris in 1936 and had two sons, Karim and Anyan. When war broke out in 1940, Prince Aly joined the French cavalry and served throughout the Middle East while Joan based herself at the Anglo-French Hospital in Cairo after settling up home for her two boys in Kenya. It was during this period that she got to know and admire her father-in-law, Aga Khan III. It was he who used her know-



Joan Lady Camrose with her son the Aga Khan, 1957

ledge of hospitals and nursing to the benefit of his followers. In 1944 he appointed her health and education commissioner in East Africa and she helped introduce his plans for the management of Ismaili schools and clinics.

The marriage, however, did not survive the stress of the five-year hostilities of the Second World War. Princess Joan moved to a new home in Eaton Square, London, and opened her doors to a glittering array of diplomats, politicians, ambassadors, writers, musicians and journalists.

Meanwhile, her two sons were growing up rapidly. The old Aga's regard for her had not been affected by the divorce and it was entirely on his advice that her sons were educated at Le Rosey in Switzerland and at Harvard in America, thus by-passing the conventional British upper-class equivalents of Eton or Harrow and Oxbridge. But in 1987 Aga III died and surprised the world by selecting in his will his 20-year-old elder grandson, Karim, rather than either of his sons, Aly and Sadruddin, to succeed him as Imam or Spiritual Leader of the Ismaili Muslims scattered through 22 countries all over the globe.

Karim, still a junior at Harvard, had now to undertake a world tour when he would be formally installed as

the Ismaili 49th Imam. Princess Joan found herself caught up in a whirl of preparations for a long and complicated journey, the first stage of which was to the three territories of East Africa (still very much under the British colonial wing). They involved meetings with the Ismaili leaders from the region and making arrangements for the entire family including Prince Aly himself (who bore any eventual disappointment with remarkable fortitude and whose loyalty to his son was exemplary).

Without once stepping on her son's toes, Princess Joan helped smooth his path with the media, accompanied him

to Buckingham Palace where the Queen passed on the title of "Highness" originally bestowed on his grandfather by Queen Victoria. The arrangement of the "Takhr-nashinis", or accession ceremonies which followed in Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Kampala, Karachi and Bombay were her next task. But whether the young Aga Khan was meeting the Kabaka of Uganda or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi, Princess Joan was always discreetly at hand. Once the tour was completed, however, and as her son became more closely involved with Ismaili affairs, she largely withdrew.

Even so, along with other members of the family, she accompanied him on several overseas visits well into her 70s. Most often she joined the family holidays with innumerable grandchildren at the Aga Khan's villa in Porto Cervo, Sardinia. Meanwhile she was free to indulge her other interests at the opera and ballet at Covent Garden, in health and hospitals and in archaeology. She played a leading role in stimulating interest in the former Hellenic sites on the southern coast of Turkey, most particularly in raising funds for the restoration of the ancient city of Aphrodisias.

In 1986 she married again, late in life, to her long term companion, the late Seymour Thomas Berry, Viscount Lord Camrose, former chairman and then director of *The Daily Telegraph*. She was to preside with as much grace and skill over his family home in Hackwood as she had done over Prince Aly's house at Maison Lafite in Paris. Above all she was able to enjoy her other passion in life — landscape gardening. She researched the original plans and completely transformed the glorious woods and grounds at Hackwood, personally supervising its opening to the public.

Her third husband predeceased her. She is survived by her two sons.

## ELLEN HARRIS

Ellen Harris, Reuters reporter, died on April 11 aged 94. She was born on April 20, 1902.

ELLEN HARRIS was the first woman to be given accreditation by the Serjeant at Arms to the Parliamentary Press Gallery. She went there at the nadir of the Second World War in 1940 to give the Reuters team a strong boost.

Reuters was then in Olympic-style, split second competition with the two other world-wide news agencies, United Press and Associated Press. A thirty second or one minute beat with a news flash was the round-the-clock aim. It meant space in the stop press columns of newspapers. From Fiji to Newfoundland they were going to press at all hours. A Reuters credit on an item brought prestige, and that ultimately was translated into sales and revenue.

Ellen Harris brought to this race fingers that sped over a keyboard in record time. She could type faster than anyone could speak, without sacrifice of accuracy. Literals or misplaced commas were unknown in her copy. Her mind was as quick as were her fingers. It soon pierced the mysteries of parliamentary procedure. She took charge of all written questions for Reuters as well as dispatching all



parliamentary copy, and remained a key figure in the Reuters team at Westminster until she retired in 1967.

Ellen Ada Baylis — known as "Bay" to friends and colleagues — was born into a London family that hovered between working and lower middle class. She left school at 14, and within weeks joined Reuters as a messenger girl at the height of the First World War. After a day's running around in Fleet Street, she imposed on herself the tough discipline of evening classes to master shorthand and typing. And for 51 years of unusual hours, that could start at seven in the morning and on the late shift end at 10 or 11 at night, she gave Reuters her total

loyalty. The firm became almost the whole of her life when she married one of its traffic technicians, Tom Harris. They remained together until he died nearly 50 years later.

In the tea room of the House of Commons she became friendly with Bernard Taylor, the Nottinghamshire miner who came to Westminster as a Labour MP a year after she did. Taylor's wife died in 1983, a few years after Ellen Harris had been widowed. He began to visit her at her home in Eltham, on the Kent outskirts of London. Eventually they both found it increasingly difficult to cope on their own.

So she sold her home to move into his council house in Mansfield Woodhouse. And he broke a lifelong principle and bought the house to give her security in her new home. As Lord Taylor of Mansfield he remained a public figure to the end, and Ellen Harris partnered him in his public duties with flair, warmth and vivacity. A lifelong Tory voter, she took to Mansfield and its Labour society the moment she set foot among the old miners' cottages.

She stayed in the former council house in Shakespeare Avenue after Taylor died. But she was buried alongside Tom Harris in Eltham cemetery. There were no children.

## Church news

## Appointments

The Rev Jeremy Allcock, Vicar, East Ham, St Paul, now also Assistant Area Dean of Newham (Chelmsford).  
The Rev Billy Barnes, curate, Northallerton with Kirby Sigston, to be Vicar, Dormanston (York).  
The Rev Alan Bayes, curate, St Mark's, Talbot Village, Bourne-mouth, now has permission to officiate in diocese of Durham, and to be Chaplain to College of St Hild and St Bede at Durham University.  
The Rev Reginald Bushan, Vicar, St Mary Magdalene, Paddington, to be Priest-in-charge, St Stephen, Gloucester Road (London).  
The Rev Gary Barrett, Curate, Elizabeth College, Guernsey (Winchester), to be Priest-in-charge, Westham (Chelmsford).  
The Rev Jonathan Brown, curate, Esher (Guildford), to be Team Vicar, Crawley Three Bridges (Chichester).  
The Rev Vernon Brooke, Industrial

Chaplain (Derby), to be Team Vicar, Industrial Chaplains (Chichester).  
The Rev Derek Chandler, Curate, Bitterne Park, Southampton (Winchester), to be Team Vicar Melton Mowbray Team Ministry, and hereland Deanery Youth Chaplain (Leicester).  
The Rev Colin Cheeseman, Chaplain, HM Prison, Wexham, to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Armley (Ripon).  
The Rev Timothy Daplyn, Curate, Southmead, to be Bristol Diocesan Communications Officer, press officer for Bristol Archdiocese, and Priest-in-charge Abbots Leigh with Leigh Woods (Bristol).  
The Rev Nicholas Deane, Vicar, Christ Church, Newburgh with St James, Westhead (Liverpool), to be Rector, Chadwell St Mary (Chelmsford).  
The Rev John Topham, formerly Chaplain of Toulouse: Chabris and Pau, France (Europe), to be Priest-

in-charge, All Souls', St Margaret's, Twickenham (London).  
The Rev David Wells, Vicar, Mosley Hill (Liverpool), to be Rector, Waltham Epiphany Team Ministry (Derby).  
Resignations and retirements  
The Rev George Campbell, Vicar, West Bromwich Holy Trinity (Lichfield), to retire April 30.  
The Rev Richard Haigh, Rector, Brough with Stainmore, Musgrave and Wansop (Carlisle), to retire May 15.  
The Rev Christopher Herbert, Vicar, Great Sheffield (Cly), to retire April 30.  
The Rev Joseph Hogarth, Vicar, Consett (Durham), to resign May 31.  
The Rev Jonathan Martin, curate, Heatherfield St John (Salisbury), to resign and be executive director, Dame Agnes Weston's Royal Sailors' Rest, Dorset.  
Canon Paul Oestreicher, Canon Rectory and Director of Inter-

national Ministry at Coventry Cathedral (Coventry), to retire December 31.  
The Rev John Pyle, Vicar, Cheltenham with Birley and Thaxington (Newcastle), to retire May 31.  
The Rev Michael Ranken, Honorary Curate, Epsom, St Martin (Guildford), to retire April 30.  
The Rev Richard Watkins-Wright, Rector, Great Granden with Little Granden (Ely), to retire March 31.  
The Rev Owen Blatchly, Rector, Binfield, All Saints and St Mark (Oxford), to retire May 31.  
Canon Cavell Cavell-Northam, Vicar, Stony Stratford (Oxford), to retire August 31.  
The Rev Richard Dent, curate, St Michael and All Angels, Westminster, and until recent Assistant Chaplain at Frenchay Hospital (Bristol), to retire May 31.  
The Rev Wendy Prole, curate, Hamworthy Team Ministry (Salisbury), to retire July 31.

## THE KING'S VISIT TO GREENWICH

## MARITIME MUSEUM OPENED

The King went to Greenwich by river from Westminster yesterday to open the National Maritime Museum. With his Majesty were the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, and the First Lord of the Admiralty was Minister in attendance. A guard of honour of the Royal Marines was stationed on the embankment by Westminster Pier, and the Royal Journey was made in the barge of the Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, with a launch of the Port of London Authority leading the procession and an escort of four motor torpedo-boats.

The Thames has had little of pageantry in its recent history, and until yesterday there had not been since 1919 anything in the nature of a Royal progress along London's river. The people of London enjoyed the occasion. It was impressive rather than picturesque. Many who looked on at yesterday's procession remembered the grand old Royal barge, with its long scarlet oars. It had given place to the severely practical barge of a modern navy.

With the change there had gone a great deal of the picturesque of river pageantry, but the swift relentless machine that had come on the scene was impressive in its efficiency and

## ON THIS DAY

April 28, 1937

The Queen's House, probably the most gracious building on the Thames, was built by Inigo Jones to the order of James I for his consort Anne; it was completed by Charles I.

wonderful movement. Of the thousands of persons who looked across Westminster Bridge and over the embankment parapets, few seemed able to realize that the King and his escort were out of sight in a few seconds. The modern age of mechanical transport seemed to have intruded into the traditions of Thames pageantry with startling suddenness.

Great crowds began to gather near Westminster Pier long before the King left Buckingham Palace. Along the pavement of Westminster Bridge people stood six and seven deep for more than two hours, and there was a similar press of people for a great

distance along the embankment. The upper windows of every building from which anything of this Royal journey could be seen were filled with persons looking down on the scene below. The crowds in the streets were reminded all the time of the approaching Coronation, with hawkers importuning them to "buy your colours — red, white and blue," or to buy a periscope for a shilling before it went up to half-a-crown in Coronation week. "Official programmes" had of course, sprung in great numbers from unofficial sources.

## DRIVE TO THE QUEEN'S HOUSE

The Royal party disembarked at Greenwich College steps, opposite the broad avenue which divides the buildings of the Royal Naval College and runs back from the river to the Queen's House. The King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth, with those in attendance on them, drove to the Queen's House in motor-cars.

The route along King William Street and Romney Road was thickly lined with spectators, who greeted their Majesties with cheers and fluttering handkerchiefs. Queen Mary, who had come by road in advance, awaited them at the top of the steps leading to the broad terrace of the Queen's House.







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**TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT**

**SCREEN BREAK**  
Tears and fears forged in the Crucible  
PAGE 27

**SUNDAY BEST**  
Reports from all of the Axa Life League matches  
PAGES 35,36



**END OF THE PIER SHOW**  
Will Gritt and passion save Brighton? PAGE 29



**DUEL IN THE SPIN**  
Simon Barnes on loopers, hitters and floaters  
PAGE 31

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 28 1997

## THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF ENGLISH RUGBY RETIRES

'There will never be another like Will Carling'



As a player and captain Will Carling flew the flag for England and was constantly in the limelight. For his last hurrah in Cardiff it was fitting that Rob Andrew was again at his side



THE CARLING YEARS	
1988	First England cap in 10-0 defeat by France
1988	First match as captain, a 28-19 win over Australia at Twickenham
1991	Wins first grand slam, defeat in World Cup final
1992	Honours on and off the pitch. Appointed OBE, wins second grand slam
1995	Leads England to third grand slam
1996	Sacked and reinstated after "old farts" remark
1996	Stands down as captain after 59 matches in charge
1997	Makes 72nd and last appearance for England

## A captain to rank with the best

It is impossible to measure the enormous influence Will Carling had on the development of English rugby in an extraordinary decade. An era has ended with his retirement at the weekend from the international scene, one that began with England beating Australia in 1988, the first of Will's world record 59 appearances as captain. Everyone involved that day sensed something special, that a great corner had been turned.

The mid-Eighties had not been a happy time for England. When Geoff Cooke came along as coach at the start of 1988, things began to change. Those of us mentioned in terms of the captaincy — Brian

**Rob Andrew, the leader's right-hand man during a decade of tumultuous change, offers an assessment of the Carling years**

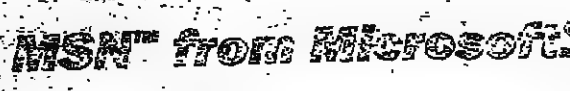
Moore, Dean Richards and myself — were not in especially good form. Will was 22, fresh to the side, a powerful centre. Geoff chose him as his man to lead us. Initially for three years. It was a bold move, one that Will himself could not quite believe, but which turned out to be absolutely inspired.

Not only had England never had a captain quite like him, they had not again. Will was not a natural-born leader and not an "over-the-trenches" sort of captain. He grew into the role, sought advice and worked on creating the enormous team spirit within the 1991 side — the height of England's powers. He made it his mission to talk at length

with individual players. His communication skills and attention to detail were second to none. No England captain had spent the time he did creating the sense of the England team being almost a club side.

There would be notes to players, before or after a game, on what he expected of them or how they had performed. In 72 matches for England, I cannot honestly think of one bad game by him. He always led by example. He revelled in the tremendous highs and suffered the lows more than anyone. Losing out on the grand slam to Scotland in 1990 cut him up badly, which made the slams of 1991 and 1992 all the sweeter.

Like myself, if Will could play one match over again, it would be the 1991 World Cup final. We should have beaten Australia that day at Twickenham. But it was also another remarkable turning point for rugby union in England, and inevitably Will was at the heart of the change. Sweeping away the last vestiges of amateurism, demanding a better deal for the players and his "old farts" remark, Will influenced actions off the field as well as on it.



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# Hill's rapid descent clouding ITV's horizons

According to Murray Walker, "there are a lot of people who think the Formula One season doesn't really begin until we get to Europe." Among them, I would imagine, are his bosses at ITV. This was what they had paid all those millions of pounds for — a Saturday lunchtime assault on *Grandstand*, a splash and dash at test time and then more than 2½ hours of ratings-grabbing sport on Sunday afternoon. Now, if they could just do something about Damon Hill...

Actually, the reality is that Hill's miserable run has made surprisingly little difference. The ITV coverage has been good enough and the racing competitive enough for it really not to matter. Nor are they allowing the ever-loyal Walker to wallow in his friend's

failure. Over the weekend the longest we saw of the world champion was a 30-second appearance on the short tea-time update.

Nor are the commercial breaks anything like the irritant I expected them to be, although that is largely because the German-language version of RTL also carries Formula One live. Anyone equipped with a satellite dish can simply swap between the channels, just as we did when the BBC and Eurosport shared coverage. Only rarely do they take their breaks at the same time and yesterday it was the German channel that came off worse, advertising shower gel as Frenzen came out of the pits just ahead of Michael Schumacher. It probably ranks as high treason in Germany.

Quite what the ITV market-



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

ing team will do when it discovers that a proportion of its ABC1 audience is zapping through the commercial breaks remains to be seen, but the production team is doing a good enough job to ensure that even the most bilingual return swiftly. Yesterday was about as good as a moderately exciting race will allow.

Apart from sighting a rare blue Ferrari at one point, Walker recovered well from the nightmare of his Argentina practice session and seems to have reached a good under-

standing with the ever more impressive Martin Brundle. Basically, whatever Brundle has quietly observed, Walker has quietly observed. Walker shouts about ten seconds later. That, though, is nothing to the way he shouts when somebody else is talking while something exciting happens on the track. Yesterday, it was the turn of the enthusiastic but sporadically inaccurate James Allen to suffer. As the pit-lane reporter did a perfectly competent job of interviewing the newly retired Hill, Panis suddenly dropped two places.

Walker's microphone may have been faded right down, but his anguished cries were still audible.

If the ITV coverage has a star, it is Brundle. His command of the monitors and the electronic timing data, coupled with his recent experience of race tactics, make some of those who have occupied the co-commentator seat sound distinctly amateur.

Both practice and the race were topped and tailed by the increasingly polished triumvirate of Jim Rosenthal, Tony Jardine and Simon Taylor. Jardine and Taylor could talk motor racing until the Minardis come home, but when the red light comes on they do a first-class job.

One thing notable by its absence from the ITV coverage is archive material, an omission which suggests that the

BBC is still smarting from its loss. If it is, it is not smarting badly enough to stop it asking Walker back to commentate on the British touring car championship.

So it was that, one hour after Villeneuve had claimed pole position at Imola on Saturday, Walker was back at Silverstone commentating on rounds three and four for *Grandstand*. This had less to do with the miracle of television than the fact that the races had taken place almost a week earlier.

The *Grandstand* editors worked hard to turn hindsight into an advantage, with good use of the on-board cameras and even better use of the on-board microphones, but the fact remains that the live coverage that the BBC has planned for later in the season cannot come soon enough.

MOTOR RACING: PROBLEMS PILE UP FOR HILL AS HIS SUCCESSOR AT WILLIAMS RECORDS FIRST VICTORY

## Slick Frenzen proves his pedigree

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN IN IMOLA

THE merest hint of a smile creased Heinz-Harald Frenzen's face as he managed a desultory wave to the crowds gathered at his feet. He seemed strangely self-conscious, notably ill at ease. Success as significant as his victory in the San Marino Grand Prix yesterday can take some getting used to.

Eventually, when the anthems had been completed, he took off his ubiquitous sponsor's baseball cap, closed his eyes and poured champagne over his head. He could not remember the last time that he had won a race, but amnesia is infinitely preferable to the indignities being endured by Damon Hill, the man whom he replaced at Williams.

The rituals of the podium, where Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine, the Ferrari team-mates, flanked Frenzen, are comfortably familiar to Hill, the world champion, who, for the first time, showed signs of succumbing to the frustrations of life in Formula One's equivalent of cardboard city.

Hill has yet to finish a race for TWR Arrows. A chapter of calamities here ended on lap 12, when he ploughed into the Prost of Shinji Nakano, the latest Japanese driver to be conspicuous for the depth of his budget rather than the depth of his talent.

"We need to get our act together," Hill said after watching Frenzen maintain a four-second margin over Schumacher in another sterile race dominated by pit-stop strategy. It is his turn to emulate the softly-spoken German and summon the depth of character to ignore the cynics.

There was a depressing inevitability about the campaign of character assassination, launched by Frenzen's failure to collect a point in the first three races. Allegations that he lacks the nerve to make the most of the sport's most prized opportunity were put into perspective by his refreshingly innocent response to his

first victory. In his 52nd grand prix, "This is like oil on my soul," he said, choosing his words carefully but still struggling to invest his improving English with the emotions of the moment. "I tell you, this is fantastic, a great feeling. It was my time today."

His team was determined to leave nothing to chance once the threat of rain complicated the agenda. After a wet warm-up session, a milky sun struggled through high clouds and triggered an elaborate guessing game. Williams, searching for a fractional advantage, sent staff down the nearby *Autosstrada* to report on localised weather conditions and consulted its satellite prediction service.

Williams opted for slick tyres and were suitably grateful that, for the first time this season, there was no carnage at the first corner. Jacques Villeneuve was quickest away, his smoking tyres proof of his determination to be the latest to brake into the Tamborello chicane. Schumacher out-sprinted Frenzen to claim second, a position that he was to maintain until the pivotal first round of pit stops.

Hill, forced to start from the pit lane when his Arrows sprang an oil leak on the grid, lumbered around in last place, an experience that he "did not enjoy one little bit". He was quicker than the mediocrities in front of him, but, on the type of modern track where overtaking is difficult, he was in the invidious position of having to take risks.

Matters came to a head after he passed Ukyo Katayama, only to be blocked by Nakano, who spun into Hill's path when Hill nudged him on the entry to the Variante Bassa complex just before the main straight. The resultant collision was violent and inevitable. "I touched him, all right," Hill said, with a self-deprecating chuckle. "I T-boned him. I didn't want to waste any time and I was fully committed to



Frenzen leaves Michael Schumacher in his wake on his way to victory in the San Marino Grand Prix yesterday

taking chances wherever I could find them. It was always going to be 50-50 whether I could take Nakano, and it just didn't work out."

Johnny Herbert's humdrum grand prix ended soon after, when his Sauber coasted to a halt with electrical failure. He was fourth at the time, a distant pursuer of Schumacher and the Williams pair, whose positions were reversed after the first pit stops, on laps 20 and 27.

Frenzen emerged to find Schumacher in his slipstream, but had the discipline to resist the charge and build a decisive advantage. Villeneuve, dropped to third, became an increasingly peripheral figure before gearbox failure prompted his retirement at the

end of lap 41 and promoted Irvine to a podium place.

It was now a test of Frenzen's temperament. He could not afford to be consumed by worries that, as in Melbourne, he would be robbed by brake failure. He had also to cope with the unaccustomed challenge of leading a race. "It is a different discipline," he said. "Instead of being the hummer, you are the prey; but I am becoming used to pressure. That comes with replacing a world champion in the best team."

Hill would love some of that strain. His wretched day was completed when a suspended one-race ban was imposed for his part in the Nakano incident. As the song says, things can only get better.

### DETAILS FROM IMOLA

RESULT: 1. H-H Frenzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1min 31.00 (63sec). 2. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:31.01 (61.3sec). 3. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:32.19 (61.4sec). 4. J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:32.24 (61.5sec). 5. J Alonso (Esp, Minardi) 1:32.25 (61.6sec). 6. M Nakano (Jpn, Williams-Renault) 1:32.26 (61.7sec). 7. N Larini (Ita, Sauber-Petronas) 1:32.27 (61.8sec). 8. P Barrichello (Br, Williams-Renault) 1:32.28 (61.9sec). 9. J Zanardi (Ita, Williams-Renault) 1:32.29 (62.0sec). 10. J Verstappen (Hol, TWR) 1:32.30 (62.1sec). 11. U Katayama (Jpn, Williams-Renault) 1:32.31 (62.2sec). 12. J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:32.32 (62.3sec). 13. D Coulthard (GB, Williams-Renault) 1:32.33 (62.4sec). 14. R Barrichello (Br, Williams-Renault) 1:32.34 (62.5sec). 15. J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:32.35 (62.6sec). 16. M Nakano (Jpn, Williams-Renault) 1:32.36 (62.7sec). 17. J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:32.37 (62.8sec). 18. 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J Zanardi (Ita, Williams-Renault) 1:36.58 (88.9sec). 279. J Verstappen (Hol, TWR) 1:36.59 (89.0sec). 280. J Alonso (Esp, Minardi) 1:37.00 (89.1sec). 281. U Katayama (Jpn, Williams-Renault) 1:37.01 (89.2sec). 282. J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:37.02 (89.3sec). 283. D Coulthard (GB, Williams-Renault) 1:37.03 (89.4sec). 284. R Barrichello (Br, Williams-Renault)



Celtic rivals queue up to challenge Hendry's pursuit of his seventh world title

# Morgan finds the strength to foil perfection

**ROB HUGHES**

Back stage at the Crucible Theatre, the bow tie askew and the waistcoat unbuttoned, it is a time to release the pent-up emotions created in the Embassy world snooker championship, where an old parlour game is transformed into the theatre of millions.

On Saturday lunchtime Darren Morgan, a self-confessed "underachiever" in that he has earned a mere £730,000 in nine years on the green baize circuit, is in tears. He had held his game together, shown only the merest flicker of fear that once again he might not achieve, and then put Ronnie O'Sullivan out of the 1997 event.



At the Crucible

He had earned this victory, ground it out through technical brilliance of his own allied to a far more mature, more manly hold on the tactical aspects of a 25-frame, five-hour 49-minute contest. He had eclipsed "perfection" for that is what O'Sullivan achieved in his five-minute maximum 147 break in the previous round.

However, facing the press in the dingy, dark dressing-rooms below stairs, Morgan's eyes became suddenly opaque, followed by the tears.

Later, given time to compose himself, he returned to explain. The question, asking why he had previously declared his season prematurely over, had intruded on his private grief. Morgan's mother, Cynthia, had insisted he lead the Wales team to Bangkok in November, and she had died of cancer while he was abroad. Morgan had taken weeks to come to terms with it, had shut himself away in his house, pretending to his father and to all visitors, that he was practising. "Instead," he confessed on Saturday, "I was doing nothing, just sitting in the chair. Snooker, to tell you the truth, didn't mean very much to me, until I came to terms with the fact that, no matter how much you mope, she is never going to come back... if she is looking down now, I hope she is smiling."

Morgan, the snooker player, had risen from the loneliness of the chair in the Crucible and not allowed himself to be daunted by the natural ability of his opponent, nor the ill-luck which had seemed to visit him. Indeed, his moment of truth came two frames before the end when, having potted a long black to equal the score at 61 each, O'Sullivan won the toss of the coin and asked him to take first shot at the respected black.

"I had made up my mind

intense spectators. He comes to the hall with his programmed smile, his body in his fortieth year still lean and honed, his ambition to beat Hendry to the record of seven Crucible victories. Alas, Doherty, his Dublin opponent, displays no reverence for the 1980s, treating Davis like an old video, to be discarded.

The art of winning in this arena is to be dispassionate, to suppress doubts and emotions. Indeed, there are robots around. As the players keep their composure and their calm, two BBC cameras per table circle around them, like silent stalkers.

A cough from the crowd is alien, a distraction to concentration; yet the machines of new technology, containing the lens through which the players become millionaires, are not only tolerated, their existence is blanketed out.

This much was obvious on Saturday when the temperament of Morgan overcame the talent of O'Sullivan. Three times in the space of a few moments, Morgan laid snookers for O'Sullivan. Three times the younger, arguably most gifted player, lost his rhythm and his powers of persuasion over the balls. Three times he missed, three times he fouled and the smoothest mover around the tables was reduced to a perplexed individual.

O'Sullivan complimented Morgan handsomely after the beating. Morgan thanked Lee Walker, at 21, nine years his junior, but a player from the same Red Dragon club in Crosskeys, in Wales.

Walker had won less than £300 as a professional before increasing that by £31,500 by reaching the quarter-finals at the weekend. "We support one another," Morgan said, "but it was Lee who said to me that if I had a head on my shoulders, I'd have been world champion a long time ago. I haven't believed, but I am just starting to think that it is my time."

As he spoke, O'Sullivan left the Crucible. The swagger in the hips, as slender and as rhythmic as a matador's, had lost a little of its arrogance. He was going home, with a bonus of £147,000, £1,000 a point for his five minutes of perfection and he neither seemed to see nor hear the groupies who waited for him by the back door. One or two of them had mascara running down their cheeks; it was hard to tell whether that was because of Sheffield's rain, or more tears, shed because the pin-up boy had been put in his place by the underachiever from the valleys.

**'The art of winning in this arena is to be dispassionate'**

If Sheffield is the Crucible, then the cradle of snooker now belongs heavily to the Celts. Stephen Hendry, the Scot who has dominated the 1990s, losing here only once in seven years, looks so economical. He seems never to engage full power, either of his game or his emotions. His pursuers include a second Scot, John Higgins, potentially three from Wales, with Morgan, young Lee Walker and possibly Dominic Dale, an Irishman. Ken Doherty, a French Canadian, Alain Robidoux, and a Thai, James Wattana. There is only one place assured in the quarter-finals for an Englishman, the winner between Anthony Hamilton, from Nottingham, and John Parrott, the Liverpoolian who, alone, has interrupted Hendry's clean sweep of the 1990s.

Mind you, Steve Davis, the champion of the previous decade, has not yet accepted his decline in the arena of 900



Morgan is a study in concentration, holding himself together to defeat O'Sullivan in the deciding frame of their match

## Higgins makes quiet progress

By PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS, basking in relative anonymity, took a significant step towards the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship in Sheffield yesterday by impressively establishing a 6-2 lead over Dominic Dale.

Higgins, a Scot, who compiled three century breaks during a first-round win over Graham Horne yet received none of the attention afforded Stephen Hendry or Ronnie O'Sullivan in the first week of the event, again scored heavily. Although Dale, one of a number of snooker's supporting cast to make a refreshing impact at the tournament, shared the opening two frames, Higgins, renowned as a formidable scorer, then reeled off the next five thanks to runs of 85, 91, 77, 78 and 46. Even though Dale partially repaired the damage by

accounting for the last frame of the session, Higgins holds a healthy advantage entering the final stages of the best-of-25-frame match today.

The outcome of the James Wattana v Stephen Lee encounter is much more difficult to predict. After the firing of the opening salvos, Wattana and Lee were tied at 4-4 overnight, a fair reflection of the way that an entertaining session had proceeded. Wattana moved 3-1 ahead with a run of 112, but Lee made it 3-3 before losing the seventh frame in an extraordinary finish.

Wattana, from Thailand, who had required two snookers on the last red, laid both on the green and eventually stole the frame with fine pots on blue, pink and black. However, Wattana missed a simple yellow off his spot in the next frame and Lee was back on level terms.

### DETAILS

REMATCH: Second round (best of 25 frames). D Morgan (Wales) vs R O'Sullivan (Eng) 13-12. S Hendry (Scot) vs M Williams (Wales) 13-8. A Robidoux (Can) vs S Wattana (Tha) 13-8. K Doherty (Ire) vs J Davis (Eng) 4-3. J Parrott (Eng) vs A Hamilton (Ire) 4-4. J Higgins (Scot) vs D Dale (Wales) 6-2. S Lee (Eng) vs J Wattana (Tha) 4-4.

TELEVISION: BBC2, 3.30pm, 7.10pm and 11.30pm

William Hill, the on-site bookmaker, clearly believes that the name of Stephen Hendry will be engraved on the trophy for the seventh time in eight years. Reacting swiftly to Hendry's 13-8 victory over Mark Williams on Saturday, not to mention Darren Morgan's unexpected 13-12 win over Ronnie O'Sullivan, they have installed Hendry at 2-1 on to collect the trophy.

Morgan performed admirably to remove the threat of O'Sullivan, while Hendry

merely fed off the many errors committed by Williams in the latter stages of an encounter that did not live up to expectations, but, nevertheless, Hendry will be a prohibitively short-priced favourite to overcome Morgan in the quarter-finals. He has prevailed in 14 of their 15 career meetings, including two victories this season, one of which was a desperate 9-8 defeat of Morgan, on the black, in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters last month.

Steve Davis, like Hendry, attempting to win the game's most coveted title for the seventh time, needed to produce one of his famed rearguard actions against Ken Doherty in the middle session of their second round contest last night. Doherty began play leading 6-2 after highlighting a high-quality performance on Saturday with two century breaks.

## Rios ends Spanish dominance on clay

MARCELO RIOS, of Chile, ended the Spanish dominance on clay so far this season when he beat Alex Corretja in straight sets to win the Monte Carlo Open yesterday. Rios, 21, from Chile, was seeded seventh and crushed the Spaniard 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in a one-sided match for the fourth, and most impressive victory, of his ATP Tour career.

"I played well and had a great time in Monte Carlo all week — even if I lost some money at the casino," Rios said. As well as defeating Corretja, winner in Estoril two weeks ago, he had disposed of Albert Costa, another Spaniard and the winner of the European season's second clay-court tournament in Barcelona last week.

A semi-finalist here last year, Rios confirmed that he would again be one of the players to watch on the slow surfaces after a lacklustre hard-court season. A versatile player, as comfortable at the baseline as at the net, the Chilean mastered the windy conditions far better than Corretja, seeded No.12, who looked tired and made too many unforced errors.

The most fiercely contested game of the match was the last, in which Corretja saved four match-points. The third match-point saw the Spaniard return two smashes before forcing Rios to push a volley into the net. But Corretja had left his fightback far too late.

He had also saved two set-points in the first set before losing it in 43 minutes and Rios comfortably won a dull second set. Corretja fought harder at the beginning of the third set, but Rios, hitting punishing forehands on the important points, was far too solid.

His task had been made easier by the early defeats of Pete Sampras, Thomas Muster and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the top seeds, but Rios will now fancy his chances in the French Open next month.



Rios: versatile player

### FOOTBALL

## FA acts on Chelsea Cup tickets

By JOHN GOODBODY

CHELSEA and the Football Association were involved in a dispute yesterday over the Premiership club's plans to offer FA Cup Final tickets as part of £500 hospitality packages.

The governing body has warned Ken Bates, the controversial Chelsea chairman, that the club can only sell tickets direct to the public for the game against Middlesbrough at Wembley on May 17.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "We have advised them (Chelsea) that they are not allowed to sell corporate hospitality packages, including a Cup Final ticket."

The only organisation allowed packages is the FA which uses Wembley's catering facilities. The money raised is put back into the grassroots of the game.

Chelsea has advertised a package. This includes a reception at Stamford Bridge, lunch with celebrity speakers, a coach trip to Wembley, a ticket and then return transport to the club's ground for more refreshments while watching a video game. The cost: £495, plus VAT.

The News of the World claimed yesterday that Chelsea supporters could buy £35 seats for the game if they bought £500 worth of shares in the Chelsea Pitch Owners organisation (CPO), which has been set up to buy the site at Stamford Bridge.

The newspaper quoted an official of the organisation alleging that the tickets had come from a few club directors who "have passed a few on". Steve Frankham, the CPO chairman, is reported to have said that the arrangement had been cleared by the FA.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

## Newlove power propels St Helens

St Helens ..... 42  
Castleford Tigers ..... 16

By A CORRESPONDENT

ST HELENS warmed up for Wembley and Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford with a comfortable win at Anfield yesterday.

They saw off the stop-go challenge of bottom club Castleford by running in seven tries, pausing only to stem the spirited Tigers' comeback early in the second half.

Hammond led the way with three tries which earned him the man-of-the-match award but there were several other candidates, including Newlove, who scored two tries.

It was Newlove's strength and power that caused

Castleford all their early problems and, although the Tigers lacked nothing in their enthusiasm to impress new coach Stuart Raper, they were clearly a team lacking the confidence that a first win of the season would bring.

After taking an early lead with an Orr penalty, Castleford were forced on to the back foot by the strength of Newlove and Perneline and the guile of Goulding.

Even allowing for a series of handling errors, St Helens managed to run in three first half tries to take command.

Castleford were reduced to 12 men when Tuuta was sent to the sinbin for speaking out of turn and the Tigers were made to pay in the 24th minute, Newlove doing the damage after Goulding had created the opening.

Perneline presented Ham-

mond with the opportunity for his first try — again after Newlove's power had forced Castleford's defence to work overtime.

Newlove was a constant threat and could not be stopped in the 38th minute when he crossed for his second try. He was, however, stopped on the stroke of half-time — but illegally — and Goulding punished Castleford with his third goal.

Martyn increased Saints lead before two tries in three minutes from Vowles and Middleton brought signs of a Castleford revival.

Sadly, the comeback died almost before it could take shape and Prescott ran through a retreating defence to stir St Helens back into life.

Hammond, an ardent Liverpool supporter, crossed twice in a four-minute burst before

Orr, Castleford's energetic young stand-off, gave the Tigers some comfort with a late try.

St Helens will be returning to Anfield next season following what they describe as a "moderate success". David Howes, their chief executive, said: "We have the facility to come back to play another game next season and we will be doing that. I estimate there were approximately 2,500 neutrals in the crowd this afternoon."

ST HELENS: S Prescott, D Arnold, A High, P Newlove, A Salazar, T Martyn, B Goulding, A Perneline, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Jones, C McCreary, P Hammond, S Raper, M Vowles, I Picken, P Anderson. CASTLEFORD: G Sheildon, J Rouch, A Vowles, R Gray, S Middleton, D Orr, M Ford, D Sampson, R Russell, N Sykes, J Liddell, A Schick, B Laine, S Raper, C Allen, A Torkie, I Holland, J Edwards. Referee: J Connolly (Wigan)

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

## Monarchs found wanting

By RICHARD WETHERELL

ANOTHER heavy defeat — this time a 34-6 drubbing at the hands of Amsterdam Admirals — leaves London Monarchs in some disarray. Al Luginbill, the Admirals coach, said before the game on Saturday that his side was not good enough to win the World League "yet", so where that leaves London is not something that Lionel Taylor, his counterpart, would prefer to consider. His summary was succinct. "We were killed," he said. Both sides now have a 1-2 record.

The Monarchs were unable to score a touchdown and, in their three games so far, they have totalled only 26 points. London's points in Amsterdam came from two field goals by Don Silvestri.

"We didn't beat ourselves, we were beaten by a good team, but time and again we made crucial mistakes," Taylor said. "We have a big responsibility to turn things around for our next home game."

The Monarchs must beat Barcelona Dragons next week if they are to have a chance of finishing with the best record at the halfway stage and, thus, hosting the World Bowl. They were helped somewhat when Frankfurt Galaxy defeated the previously unbeaten Dragons 17-10 on Saturday.

Rhein Fire proved too hot for the Scottish Claymores, who lost 23-10 at Murrayfield yesterday — their second successive home defeat.

### SAILING

## Admiral's Cup duo suffer double blow

By EDWARD GORMAN

JOHN MERRICKS and Ian Walker's preparations for the Admiral's Cup this summer have been severely disrupted by a freighter error, which sent their Mumm 36 to Italy instead of Hamble, during which both the boat's masts were smashed.

Merrick and Walker got their first taste of Bradamante, the Mumm 36, that they will sail for Great Britain at Key West and the SORC in Florida in January and February. The plan was to ship the boat back to Hamble for extensive work and training, before the Mumm 36 world championships in Punta Ala, Italy, at the beginning of June.

However, because of an unexplained mix-up, Bradamante was delivered to Italy at the end of the SORC while the Italian boat, which was also out in Florida, was sent to Hamble. The new mast, built for Merricks by Sparcraft, was destroyed, together with the older one.

Yesterday, Merricks was unsure whether a new mast could be made in time for Punta Ala. He has resigned himself to missing out on his boat until the last week of May but he is understandably frustrated that his carefully-laid plans have been turned into chaos.

"The boat was supposed to be coming back for optimisation on the hull and keel and for sail measurement and we can't do any of that now," he said. "We are also missing a week of offshore

training. It's just the aggravation of not having the boat back. I suppose it's a good introduction to big boat sailing," he added ironically.

The mix-up is particularly unfortunate because Merricks and Walker need as much time in their boat as possible in order to make the difficult transition from seven years of 470-sailing to keelboats and the very different challenges of Admiral's Cup racing. They started indifferently at Key West but showed definite improvement at the SORC a month later.

In the meantime, Merricks has finalised his crew. With Walker on tactics, it consists of Tim Barrett — the owner of the boat — in the pit; James Stagg as bowman; Andy Hemmings trimming; Simon Fry tacking and trimming; Gerard Mitchell on mainsheet; and David Howlett as navigator.

Like the other two crews in the British team, Merricks has yet to find any sponsorship to help offset the significant commitments by Graham Walker and Tony Buckingham, who are underwriting the costs of the British team. Attempts to find an overall team sponsor by Glyn Charles have so far come to nothing, so Merricks and Walker have started their own eleventh hour attempt to find £60,000 for the Mumm.

Merrick and Walker finished fourth overall at Hyeres in France last week in a 470, ahead of Dmitry Berezkin, of the Ukraine, and Eugeny Brastavets, of Russia.

## England's second string deliver trophy

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

ENGLAND'S decision to send their second men's team to the European championships in Odense, Denmark, provided one of the more extended finals late into Saturday evening, but scarcely one of the most exciting.

Without their top four players, who won the world team championship in Cairo 18 months ago, England defeated Wales 4-0. The final finished with a dead rubber between Paul Johnson and David Evans, the second strings, the two most closely matched players, long after most of the audience had left.

Led by Mark Cairns, the British

national champion, with Stephen Meads and Nick Taylor in the lower order for the final and Danny Meddings as reserve, England delivered their 22nd title in 25 years of men's European competition, to match the women's twentieth successive victory on Friday.

Compared with the authority of the world championship men in 1995, and the opportunism which marked England's unexpected seizure of the world junior men's title last year, however, this was a workmanlike affair that will be noted more for the first appearance in a European final by Wales.

Taylor set England off well enough with a 33-minute 9-1, 9-1, 9-0 demolition of

Matthew Benjamin, but Meads was bogged down for 64 minutes in stifling the enterprise of Gareth Davies, 10-9, 9-5, 9-7. Cairns needed 108 minutes to out-last the inventiveness of Alex Gough 9-3, 8-10, 3-9, 9-4, 9-6, whom he had dispatched with far greater efficiency in the British national final last January.

"It was not a sparkling final," Stuart Courtney, the England team manager, acknowledged, "but there are many sound reasons for giving this international experience to the second rank of a very good English generation."

"They did the job. We came here to win, not to entertain the rest of Europe."







# Hope survives after Goldstone's last stand

An hour or so after Brighton, staging a poignant last match at the Goldstone Ground, had scrambled the victory over Doncaster Rovers that brought them a last-gasp chance of Football League survival away to Hereford United next Saturday, there was a heated debate on a radio phone-in programme.

The first caller, from Liverpool, casually condemned Brighton for their previous crowd disturbances, for which the Football Association deducted two points and which may yet deposit them, homeless, in the Vauxhall Conference. They deserve to go down, the caller said.

The response, a withering rebuke of several hundred words without breath drawn, should have been recorded and a tape sent to every chairman of every professional club, such as the once swaggering Rolls-Royce-driving Mike Bamford, from Brighton's better times.

Without attempting to defend misbehaviour, the stricken Brighton supporter's words rang with emotion in a worthy advocate's plea: this club, 97 years old, is part of our community. It morally belongs to us, and today's victory, with the appearance of Dick Knight as a new local chairman, has restored our faith and hope after being failed by Bill Archer, a businessman from Lancashire.

It was a voice of passion, still buoyed by memories of Jimmy Melia leading out his men for the FA Cup Final of 1963: a glorious Wembley day on which Brighton, although already relegated from the then first division two weeks earlier, took the lead through Gordon Smith, who might have won the match with the last kick of extra time, when his shot was saved by Gary Bailey. Brighton nobly went under 4-0 in the replay.

More than 11,000 watched the last home fling of a team transformed by the appropriately named Steve Gritt. When Gritt, the former Charlton defender, replaced Jimmy Case, a hero from Wembley, as manager in December, Brighton stood 11 points adrift. Attendance had plummeted as low as 1,900. Until Saturday, they had been

DAVID MILLER



sees Brighton win 1-0 and hang on to dream of staying in the league

the bottom club in the Nationwide League since October 5.

The mood before the match was tense, not just in the home dressing-room. Several hundred police were in and around the old stadium. It was an uncomfortable thought what violence might have been inflicted by malcontent youth had Brighton not won, several hundred disillusioned supporters being gathered outside and some storming a gate near the end. Instead, a police force — much relieved at the advantageous result — benevolently stood by during the emotional aftermath, while hundreds of spectators broke up the wooden seats for souvenirs.

The match had suffered an inauspicious start. Moore, the burly Doncaster central defender, and Baird, the Brighton captain, were soon sent off for exchanging blows wilder than Frank Bruno's. Half-time arrived with Brighton having come no closer than Maskell's hooked left-foot volley from 16 yards that was deflected for a corner.

At 4.15 the terraces suddenly echoed to the chant of "Orient one-nil". Hereford having gone behind in east London. Five minutes later Reinehl, who had replaced the concussed McDonald at half-time — "a tactical substitution," Gritt would smugly claim later — charged clear, but had his shot deflected to safety by O'Connor, the Doncaster goalkeeper.

At 4.30 on the stadium's old clock — also to be looted — came Brighton's pinnacle so far from a desperate season, a moment that may go down in the club's history. O'Connor punched a high ball partially clear. Morris, the Brighton defender, struck the crossbar and, from the ensuing scramble, Storer whacked the ball home.

Now Brighton wobbled. Horribly. At 4.41 Ireland cut in from Doncaster's right and swept a cross-shot perilously close. 4.47: A Doncaster cross found Crumb free and, just as he shot, Maskell's toe squeezed the ball away.

At 4.52, the crowd mistakenly invaded the pitch thinking that it was over and quickly retreated. Women spectators screamed with anxiety. 4.56: and it was over. Pandemonium. Players went to the directors' box to acknowledge thanks from a crowd that was joyfully chanting, "We are Brighton, from the start".

Brighton have gained a goalscoring advantage over Hereford of three. A draw next Saturday will send Hereford down. Gritt said that his team will play positively for a win. Some devil's advocate reminded him that Brighton have taken two away points from their past 33. "The crowd have made the difference here," Gritt said. Some 3,000 of those will make the trek to Hereford, in prayer.

It has, indeed, been a rare revival. Modestly, Gritt said that, arriving as a stranger and 18 months out of work, he had done no more than "teach them to defend the way I know how".

Knight promised to support Gritt next season. "He's earned the right to put the club up a few divisions," he said. Knight was emphatic that Brighton will find a temporary home in Sussex, on no account sharing Gillingham's ground. By now the surrounding Hove streets were empty — and the old clock had gone.

**BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (4-4-2):** O'Connor, J. Humphrey, R. Johnson, M. Morris, S. Turk, S. Storer, J. Minton, M. Mayo, P. McDonald (sub R. Reinehl, 46min).  
**Doncaster Rovers (4-3-3):** G. O'Connor, J. Schofield, D. Moore, P. Marquis, L. Ireland, L. Walters, M. Cunniff, D. Eadie, M. Parnham, C. Crumb, S. Ireland.  
Referee: M. Pearce



A capacity crowd of 11,000 watch Brighton achieve an important and poignant victory in the final game at the Goldstone Ground



Gritt, the Brighton manager, left, leads the celebrations after his side's winning goal



A bugler plays the last post before the match on Saturday



Writing on the wall: a Brighton fan expresses his feelings

## Bury show Watford what might have been

Watford ..... 0  
Bury ..... 0

BY PAT GIBSON

GRAHAM TAYLOR seems certain to put on his tracksuit again, and return to the job that brought him so much vilification when he was the England manager, now that Elton John is back on the yellow and red brick road as chairman of Watford.

Nobody has said so yet, but it would not make much sense to restore "the dream team", as one member of the consortium which has taken over the club, called them, were Taylor not in charge of the playing side. Indeed, it may well have been one of the conditions under which the high-powered group, including Terry Rosenberg, the head of the South African Tennis Association, and

Haig Oundjian, a vice-president of the National Ice Hockey Association, bought Watford with a view to building a top-class sporting organisation at Vicarage Road. A ground-sharing agreement with Saracens rugby club next season is already in place.

The first test is more basic. Someone has to lead Watford from the lower reaches of the Nationwide League, and nobody has better credentials for that job than Taylor, who, with John's financial backing, took them from the old fourth division to runners-up in the first, into Europe and an FA Cup Final in the late 70s and early 80s.

The challenge now is to revive those glory days and the size of the task was emphasised on Saturday when Bury, poor relations even by Watford's present standards, not only snuffed out their opponents' last chance of reaching the second division play-offs but did precisely

what Watford must now look to do next season — achieve promotion to the first division.

It was almost a microcosm of a season which has been so disappointing for Kenny Jackett, one of



Taylor: must resume control

Taylor's old boys, in his first term as manager. Watford have scored only 44 goals in 45 games, taken only six points from their past nine matches and could not even capitalise on a penalty, which would have kept their hopes alive.

Bury, strong, well organised and unashamedly looking for their 23rd clean sheet and the point that would take them up for the second year in succession, had not been in too much trouble until the 87th minute. Then, an exquisite chip from Mooney put Johnson clear only for Armstrong to clip his heels as he was about to shoot. Mooney struck the penalty firmly enough, but it was too close to Kieley, who saved with his knees.

The Bury players mobbed Kieley, the former England youth international goalkeeper, their 3,000 supporters went wild and Stax Tennant, their manager, said: "It gets better every time. We were a

bit jittery today, but that was understandable when we were so close, and they gave us a bit of a fright at the end. It is a tough league, with a lot bigger clubs than Bury in it, and it will be even tougher next season — but we've proved people wrong before."

Watford, meanwhile, were left wondering what might have been. "It has been an open secret that Jack Petchey (the previous owner) has been trying to sell the club for some time," Taylor, 52, the general manager, said. "In that atmosphere of not knowing whether we were coming or going, we have drawn 19 of our games. It is as though we did not know whether to win or lose."

**WATFORD (4-4-2):** A. Chamberlain — N. Gibbs, S. Pinner, R. Fogg, C. Armstrong — D. Gossely, R. Johnson, G. Penrice, C. Eason — G. Now-Williams (sub K. Petchey, 55min), T. Mooney.  
**BURY (5-3-2):** D. Kieley — D. West, C. Luckwell, G. Armstrong, P. Butler, N. Reid (sub D. Johnson, 17), N. Davis, A. Rendell, L. Johnson — T. Beckett, R. Jackson.  
Referee: H. Harris

## Di Canio collects Celtic's sole silver

For one day of the year at least, football players are filled with a spirit of Christian charity. Indeed, they do not stop at forgiveness. Rather than simply turning the other cheek, they gather to fête the man who has caused them the greatest torment. In Glasgow last night, Paolo Di Canio, of Celtic, received the Scottish players' player of the year award.

It will be the only prize collected by his club this season and the Italian finished ahead of Brian Laudrup, the Rangers forward, by a handful of votes. The development of Di Canio's reputation has been one of the most intriguing sub-plots in Scottish football of late.

After his signing from AC Milan for £900,000, nine months ago, he was draped in the usual clichés and seemed intent on living up to them. His behaviour begs a pundit to invoke Latin temperance. For Di Canio, gesture is integral to expression and you could render him mute by tying his hands behind his back. A love of opera is another reckless piece of conformity to stereotype.

From the first sighting of the BMW Z3 that he brought with him to Scotland, a concern with style has also been apparent. When kitted out with his green club blazer, a garment reminiscent of the uniform worn by Glasgow's bus drivers, it is reported that Di Canio recoiled and argued desperately that he should be allowed to pay for more fashionable clothing for his team-mates.

Even now, to his cost, he can be caricatured. With Celtic 1-0 down to Falkirk last week in the Scottish Cup semi-final, he fell inside the area as David Hagen attempted a challenge. Television pictures suggest that a penalty ought to have been awarded, but Willie Young, the referee, can be excused for failing to detect the offence.

As well as dismissing appeals, though, he stopped the game and booked Di Canio for diving. Somewhere in the official's mind there may just have lurked a preconception about Italian histrionics. If it had been David Hannah, or one of the other mundane Scots in the Celtic side, who had hit the ground, would Young still have reached for the yellow card?

Although most wingers are accused at times of feigning a foul, it

is, for the most part, a wholly laudable drama that Di Canio creates. The subtleties of his dribbling are a delight, but so too are the pride and self-belief that mark him out in every match. "When people like him do have a bad game," Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, has observed, "it will be a real stinker, because they never stop trying to turn it into a good one."

Talk of Italian exuberance is traditional, but Di Canio's strength of mind is also typical of a nation that once again has representatives, this year, in the final of two of the three European trophies. He once played for Juventus and continues to echo their indomitability. As Burns claims, Di Canio is

too brave to hide, and, if team-mates have a shameful tendency to evade responsibility by depending solely on his immense efforts, as they did in losing to Falkirk, he is hardly to blame. It is perfectly appropriate that he alone should take an honour from the season while the rest of the Celtic squad is left empty-handed.

In the past five years Scotland's journalists have gone on to present their prize to the man already honoured by the players, but, in 1997, there is a chance of disparity. If the only purpose were to identify the person who can make the most skilful use of a ball, then the press, too, would be left to choose between Di Canio and Laudrup. Important though ability may be, however, sport is also about the individual's will to triumph over circumstance.

In that regard, Jim Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, is quite a candidate. Ditched by Manchester United in 1990 and freed by Dundee in 1993, Leighton, 39, has since surmounted despair. Nur he had the luxury of some tranquil sanatorium in which to recover peace of mind. His club are still at risk of relegation and, despite his efforts, 51 goals have been conceded in the Bell's Scottish League.

He is best judged at international level and a clean sheet against Sweden in Gothenburg on Wednesday would be his twelfth in succession for Scotland in appearances in the important tournaments. That record matters more than any trophy journalists can award, but Leighton still has this column's vote.

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

## Webb's parting words increase speculation

Walsall ..... 1  
Brentford ..... 0

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THE best job in the world — such was the opinion of the array of managers questioned by Alan Hansen during his television documentary into the occupation last week. The view may not hold unanimity after all, however, David Webb and Chris Nicholl appear to be the two most reluctant managers in the Nationwide League.

Webb has already offered to resign this season after suffering verbal abuse from Brentford supporters only to change his mind. On Saturday, the club laid on free transport to the Bescot Stadium for a game that they needed to win to maintain their hopes of automatic promotion to the first division. For those supporters to break into chants of "Webb out" smacked of ingratitude, but drew a response that they will find encouraging.

"If they are patient, they may get the change they want," Webb said. "Make of that what you will." Yet his side did not play badly. They created sufficient opportunities to have avoided defeat and can claim to have dominated the second half. Rapsley, a substitute, and Hutchings had firm headers saved by Walker, and a cross-shot from Taylor almost sneaked inside the far post.

Having led the table for much of the season, before the sale of Nicky Forster to Birmingham City, Brent-

ford must now face the play-offs, but how about Walsall? They are in eighth place, three points behind Bristol City, in sixth, but with games against Gillingham and Preston North End, sides from the bottom half of the table, to come.

Mountfield and Visevash give them resolve at the back, while Hodge consistently had the better of Anderson along the left flank. Their most telling asset, however, is the pace of Kyle Lightbourne, their leading scorer. Lightbourne was a part-time player and truck driver in Bermuda when he was invited to a trial by Scarborough. Subsequently released on a free transfer, he has averaged close to a goal every other game for Walsall since.

The one that did for Brentford was his 25th of the season. He slid in to meet a low cross from Hodge in the 44th minute, and he also drew the best save of the game from Dearden five minutes after half-time.

Nicholl recognises the likelihood of losing Lightbourne during the summer, but is less talkative about his own future. "I do not want other people knowing about it; my future is my business," Nicholl said. That is not good enough. Those who pay good money to support Walsall are entitled to feel that it is their business, too.

**WALSALL (3-5-2):** W. Evans, D. Walsall, J. Visevash — C. Hattman, D. Bradley (sub A. Watson, 77min), M. Bullock, M. Blake — J. Hodge, K. Lightbourne, D. Dearden.  
**BRENTFORD (4-4-2):** P. Dearden — B. Southam, C. Hutchings, J. Baines, J. Anderson — R. Taylor, P. Smith, D. McGivern, D. Dennis — J. O'Hare (sub R. Rapsley, 80), C. Rapsley.  
Referee: E. Woottonhouse

## Dalglish to plan for the future

KENNY DALGLISH is ready to begin the rebuilding of the Newcastle United side that he inherited from Kevin Keegan with three signings. Temur Ketsbaia, the Georgia midfielder player, Jon Dahl Tomasson, the Denmark forward, and Ricky Gitties, of St Mirren, are all likely to sign before the start of next season.

Gitties, the Scotland Under-21 midfielder player, could be the first to sign after holding talks at St James' Park today. He has also been on trial at Liverpool and Tony Fitzpatrick, the St Mirren manager, said: "We have given the player permission to have talks with Newcastle, but we have kept Liverpool aware of the situation too." The fee is likely to be in the region of £500,000.

Ketsbaia, who could play against England at Wembley on Wednesday, has confirmed that he will join Newcastle on a free transfer from AEK Athens. "I met members of the Newcastle board on Thursday and we are still having talks," he said. "The only thing that is missing is my signature on a piece of paper but that is coming."

Tomasson, of SC Heerenveen, who is the leading scorer in Holland, said: "I have discussed terms at length with Newcastle over the past couple of days and spoken to my friends in the Denmark camp. Peter Schmeichel and Allan Nielsen. They have told me that England would be a good move and that Newcastle is a big club."

## Macclesfield home in on Conference title

Macclesfield Town ..... 4  
Bromsgrove Rovers ..... 0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE manner in which Macclesfield Town ruthlessly ended the Vauxhall Conference title of Bromsgrove Rovers at Moss Rose on Saturday suggests that they should have little problem in bringing their own tenure in the top flight of non-league football to a more satisfying conclusion within the next week.

Victory, either away to Halifax Town on Wednesday or Kettering Town on Saturday, will ensure promotion to the Nationwide League and be a heart-warming triumph for Sammy McIlroy and a squad cut to the bare bones in the wake of the hole in the club's finances blown by the suicide of Arthur Jones, the chairman, last September. "It would be my greatest achievement in football," McIlroy said, topping Manchester United and Northern Ireland glory days and Wembley appearances.

In front of 3,004 people, the sort of crowd that "would give us a chance" at a higher level, according to McIlroy, Macclesfield wrapped up their home programme with another feast to follow the 5-0 thumping of Woking last Wednesday. The local shoppers who followed the urgings of leaflets handed to them to add their weight to "Sammy's promotion push" were well rewarded.

Edey let Bromsgrove off the hook when Taylor dived to his right to

block his penalty after five minutes, but the dismissal of Smith, the central defender, who had brought down Askey to concede the kick, left a gaping hole in their rearguard.

Led by the tirelessly resourceful Sorrel and Wood, embellished by dazzling touches by Askey and fancy footwork by Byrne and Williams, Macclesfield spun silky patterns that swiftly sealed Bromsgrove's fate. A header by Payne from a corner, two goals taken at the second attempt by Williams and a penalty emphatically put to Taylor's left by Davenport, the old hand, put them out of sight by half-time.

The second half faded as early chances went begging and substitutions were made, but the Macclesfield supporters supplied a streaker and Bromsgrove supporters provided fancy-dress frolics in the rain — goalkeeper Taylor was persuaded to try a bishop's mitre for size — as end-of-an-era emotions took over in both camps.

Such is the cruel concertina crush of the end-of-season programme that Macclesfield will tonight be able to debate the momentous days ahead with the one team that can overhaul them, Kettering Town Harriers, after they have taken each other on in the second leg of the Spalding Cup final at Aggborough.

**MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2):** P. Price — D. Trison, N. Howson, S. Payne, C. Edey — J. Askey (sub N. Mitchell, 76min), C. Byrne (sub M. Sorrell, 70), M. Sorrell, S. Wood — P. Davenport (sub N. Peck, 67), C. Williams.  
**BROMSGROVE ROVERS (4-4-2):** E. Taylor — A. Wilgus, A. Smith, P. Wardle, S. Brighton — R. Edey (sub C. Mearns, 74), M. Crisp, N. Amos, C. White — A. Mearns, S. Taylor.  
Referee: R. Hayes







## Simon Barnes in the trenches at the world table tennis championships

## Nations united by the ultimate in sporting warfare

Ping pong is one of those universal experiences. Children have had running races and jumping competitions since time and legs began, and that is track and field. Football is perhaps the second universal. Most children, and certainly just about every boy that ever lived outside North America, has played three-and-a-half, even when all they have for a ball is a bundle of rags.

Then there is ping pong. More organisation is required, and more expense, but gratifyingly little of either. Ping pong is as inevitable a game in the Third World as it is in the first. There were 108 nations that accepted invitations to attend the world championships in Manchester, and 106 that turned up. That is serious. In terms of the number of nations competing, it is reckoned to be the biggest event held on British soil — bigger even than the war-governed 1948 Olympic Games, and obviously bigger than any Commonwealth Games.

Who has not picked up a ping pong bat, who has not dared the big shot at 20-19, who has not felt nerve fail at match point against? Who has not experienced the paradox of the airy nothing of a ball that can travel like a bullet?

Yet ping pong is considered a minor sport, unlike running and jumping and football. Few are aware of Great Britain's struggle to qualify for the deeper stages of the team competition. Oh, and before the ping pong establishment writes to inform me that the game is called table tennis, let me demur.

The phrase "table tennis" is offensive. It contains an apology: "Sorry, we are not proper tennis at all, we are a scaled-down version of the real thing" — but ping pong is a marvelous game in its own right — compelling, violent and quite disturbingly intense.

"Dynamic," Matthew Syed,

the Britain No 1, said. "It is the high-stress game." Having obtained a first-class degree in politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) from Balliol College, Oxford, he turned down a high-falootin offer to start a career in the City so that he could play ping pong. Recently the subject-victim of one of *The Guardian's* post-modern questionnaires, he sent back the questionnaire's every irony with power, swerve and topspin.

"Tricks," he said. "Tricks within tricks." That's ping pong. Ping pong is a universal. So is singing. But things develop with time, expertise, thought, instruments: modern ping pong can be difficult to follow and bewildering to the eye, just as the 12-tone technique of Schönberg baffles the ear.

The ping pong server assumes a position of bizarre contortion at the moment of release, to hide both bat and ball from his opponent. Players twiddle their bats, changing the differing faces from forehand to backhand and back again. They stamp on the floor to disguise the sound of impact. Before each match, they scrutinise each other's instruments, lest their opponent be carrying a bat out of hell.

Players come in weird varieties of form: in ping pong, more than any other sport, *le style c'est l'homme*. Or *l'arme*, of course. Loopers, hitters, counter-hitters, backspin defenders, topspin defenders. Others, too.

Syed is a backspin and float defender. One of the many paradoxes of the game is that the defender is more flamboyant than the attacker, standing miles away, till the dining table assumes the size of an occasional table for a small gin and tonic, plunging about to

meet the most ferocious shots of his opponent and back-spinning, or perhaps floating, the ball back again.

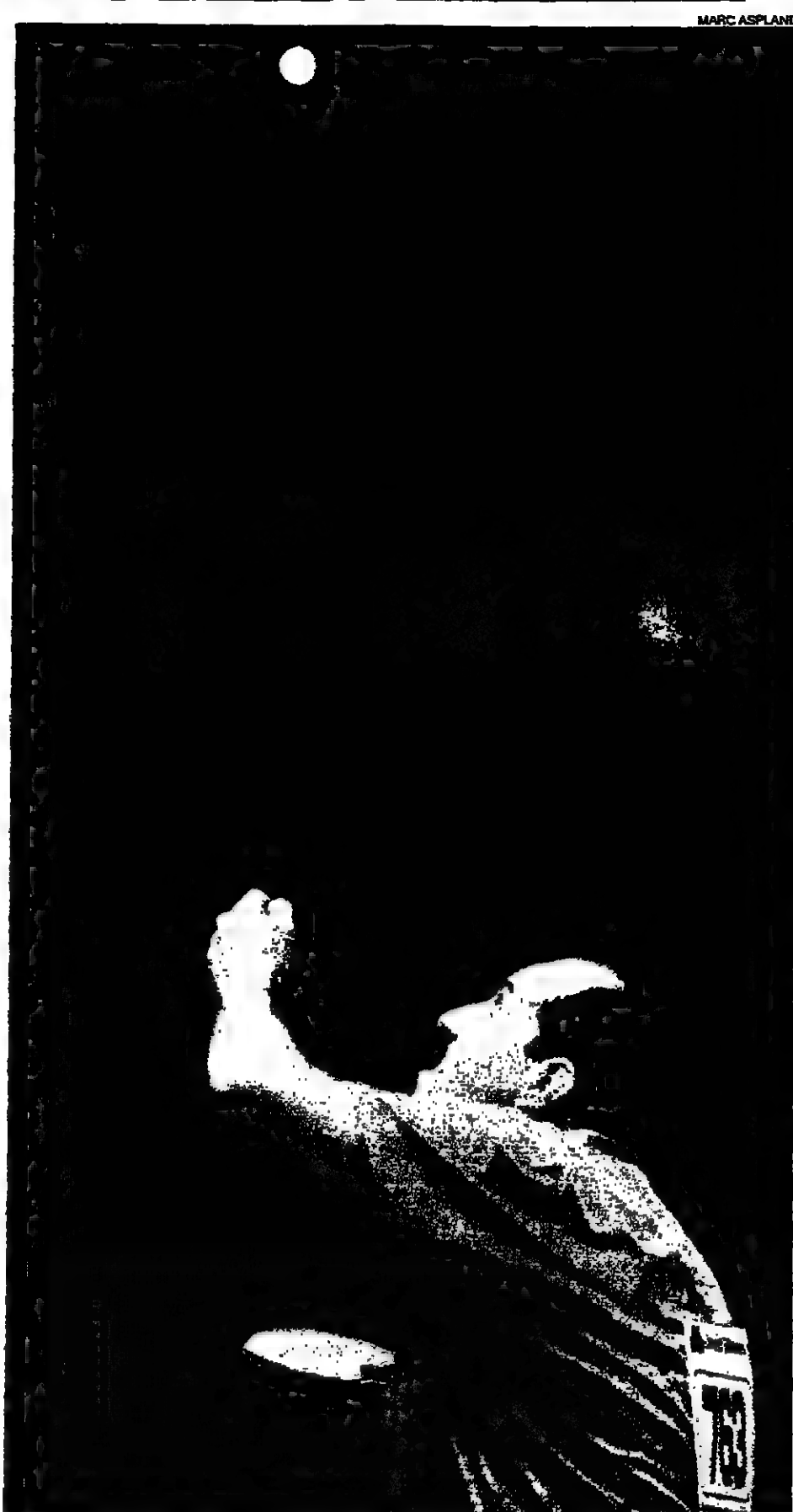
There are seven titles at stake in Manchester — five individual and doubles titles, such as you get at Wimbledon, plus the Davis and the Fed Cups. Two years ago, China won all seven in China. A repeat at the G-Mex Centre, by no means out of the question, would count as one of the great achievements in sport.

This is a game about psychological domination, and the Chinese have that quality above all. They have the knack of dominating opponents even when a handful of points down. Against the Chinese, players surrender unbeatable leads as a matter of routine.

The game is bewilderingly fast, not just in the speed of the ball but also in the speed of the points. There is no time to regroup and change your tactics. You see appalled players watching themselves as they unerringly feed an opponent's strength, unable to tell their hands to stop it. This is a game in which players get trapped, when the stronger imposes on the weaker a kind of psychological claustrophobia.

Most confrontational sports are metaphors for battles and fights, and ping pong is a death duel. It is played at a pitch of violent intensity, yet its missile is the most feeble thing in sport. It is little more than a cloud. This is both the most aggressive of all games and the most harmless. It takes high-combat skills, both in physical and mental terms, but employs this fragile nugget of a weapon. It is almost as far from physical assault as chess.

All sports have this paradox — peaceful warfare, harmless combat — but no sport has it to a greater extent than ping pong. That, and its universality, must make ping pong the ultimate sport.



Trickery and technique serve to add to the universal appeal of the sport

## Heavy price to pay for football association

In the battle for the football club with the best Internet web site, Leeds United may make the most noise, but more fun is to be had logging on to the Bolton Wanderers pages. There is a regular update on the building of the new stadium, which will replace Burnden Park next season. A remote-control camera photographs the building site every half an hour to show progress and updates the Internet screen.

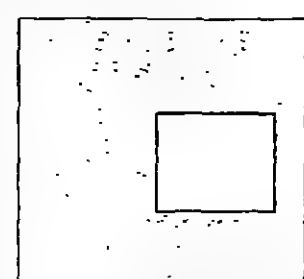
Last week the Reebok logo became more prominent as the giant sports goods group — which started life in Lancashire — signed a £2 million-a-year deal to put its name on the stadium. The deal is worth about as much to Bolton as the long-standing arrangement by which Reebok makes the shirts and is the main sponsor of the club.

The arrangement between Reebok and Bolton is a historical one, but it was the starting point for Reebok's challenge to Umbro, Adidas and Nike in the battle to sell football-related clothing to supporters. Reebok has traditionally sponsored individuals, particularly in athletics, where the company made its name.

Its leading footballer is Ryan Giggs, but it also has Peter Schmeichel, Dennis Bergkamp and John Scales on its books. It has deals with international teams, including Argentina, but has had a bad experience with Fiorentina, of the Italian Serie A, and is cancelling the deal because of the club's hooligan problems.

Reebok recently signed up two FA Carling Premiership clubs, Aston Villa and Liverpool, and, last week, Mel Stephens, the company secretary of Reebok International, told of the contrasting merchandising performances of those clubs.

Stephens said that, since launching the Liverpool range in the summer, it has sold £25 million worth of replica shirts, training tops and the like. The figure for the same period at Aston Villa is just £2 million. Though Stephens would not say how much Reebok paid Liverpool to win the contract, he admitted that the deal was so expensive that the company is not making a penny from it.



This is all the more amazing when you realise how much a manufacturer like Reebok makes out of club merchandise. A replica shirt selling for, say, £34.99 will net the manufacturer about £8.50, while handing about £3 directly to the club as a royalty fee. This means that the Manchester United home strip, of which nearly a million shirts have been sold, will bring the club £3 million on top of the reported £40 million that Umbro paid for the rights to manufacture United goods.

Umbro and Reebok say that the deals being struck now are not economic for the manufacturers. The prices have been pushed up because of an attack on the market by Nike, whose agreement to manufacture the Arsenal kit three years ago started the present round of inflation.

Stephens does not think that Umbro will be able to continue to compete in the market. Reebok, Nike and Adidas are big brands using football almost as a loss leader to give them a strong position in the leisurewear market. Umbro operates only in football and is particularly dependent on its two main contracts — United and the England team. Should it lose either, it could struggle.

Which makes it all the more interesting that Peter Kenyon, formerly the chairman of Umbro International, should choose this moment to jump ship and turn up at Manchester United. His title — deputy chief executive — is intriguing, as is his brief "to develop the Manchester United brand". Many see him as a successor to Martin Edwards in running the club, and he may not have to wait too long.

JASON NISSE

## ATHLETICS

## Doctor's rounds lift Birchfield

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE London Marathon has started a trend. After two close races over 26 miles 385 yards two weeks ago, the English national 12-stage road relay, over almost twice the marathon distance at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday, produced the most thrilling finish in its 30-year history. The tension would have been even greater but for an incident that resulted in one athlete being taken to hospital.

Paul Jackson was on the fourth stage for Birchfield Harriers, the pre-race favourites, when, towards the end of his three-mile leg, he began to show obvious signs of distress. "He was like Jim Peters, rolling all over the place," Tom McCook, a Birchfield clubman, said. "I have never seen anybody so white."

However, unlike Peters, whose final collapse 200 metres from the end of the 1954 Empire Games marathon is part of athletics legend, Jackson made it to the finish. Walking and staggering the last 150 metres, he handed his team over in sixteenth place, having set off fourth.

The thoughts of Birchfield athletes and officials were immediately diverted from a victory challenge to Jackson's welfare. Fortunately there was a doctor in the team line-up, a rarity in elite club athletics. Dr Mark Hirsch, a Birmingham GP, was down to run the eighth stage.

"You only see people that colour in hospital," Hirsch reported after Jackson had collapsed into his arms on the line. Hirsch was preparing to withdraw, either to assist Jackson or to cover as overall race medic for Dr Frank Newton, while he treated the athlete. Neither proved necessary.

Jackson was taken to hospital and was released that evening, having been advised to see a cardiologist. In the meantime, Hirsch determined that Jackson's courage in reaching the changeover should not be wasted, had an inspired run.

"I thought about him on the way round," Hirsch said. "I

cannot say whether it affected my performance, but, in worse conditions, I ran faster than I did in the Midlands relay [on the same course]. Bit by bit, Birchfield rebuilt their challenge to deliver a medal into Jackson's possession.

"All he was doing in the ambulance was apologising for letting the team down. Rob Wright, a clubmate, said, 'Jackson should not feel guilty and should reflect instead on how, but for his courage and determination to reach the changeover, Birchfield would have been out of the race. There was more triumph here in finishing third than in winning without incident.'

That is not to diminish the achievement of Salford Harriers, who won the title for the first time, defeating Coventry Godiva by only eight seconds after 50 miles of running.

If McCook's estimate that Jackson would normally have run about 1½ minutes faster is accurate, Birchfield would have edged out Salford in a tight three-team finish.

All but Darius Burrows, a victim of trying too hard to make up lost time, misjudging his run, performed well. "Two disasters and the team pulling together for bronze medals is a triumph of team spirit," Maurice Millington, the Birchfield manager, said.

Jackson, 32, was called in at two days' notice. According to Wright, hospital doctors said that his condition was brought on by anxiety. Birchfield officials believe that Jackson put himself under too much pressure.

"He has never been put under that stress before and I think it was too much for him," Millington said. "Maybe we should have selected somebody more experienced."

McCook added: "He is the sort of guy who turns out when the club wants him; a team manager's delight."

Ironically, one of Coventry's silver medal-winning team was Glynn Tromans, who has needed two heart operations to correct a condition, which forced him out of the race last year when he suffered a sudden tachycardia attack.

## PANATHLON PUTS FUN AND COMPETITION BACK ON THE CURRICULUM FOR PUPILS

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE decline of competitive sport in state schools has become a cliché in politics and education. Pockets of excellence have remained, usually because of the enthusiasm of individual teachers. Cutbacks in spending by local authorities, pupils working part-time at weekends and the reluctance of many non-PE members of staff to take charge of extracurricular activities, however, have combined to reduce inter-school fixtures and cut entries for championships.

Into this void in London has arrived the panathlon, sponsored by Royal Sun-Alliance, one of the most imaginative ideas in school sport for years.

A total of 32 secondary schools, one from each London borough, compete in nine activities: badminton, basketball, cycling, chess, football, netball, orienteering,

sportshall athletics and table tennis. No pupil, however, can take part in more than two sports, thus forcing schools to unearth new talent. Four teams won through to the final.

Peter Yates, the head of PE at Ashburton HS, Croydon, a 900-strong comprehensive, said: "Last autumn I addressed the assembly and told everyone that this was an opportunity to prove that we were the best sports school in London. We already had an extensive series of inter-school events, but the panathlon allowed us to extend the programme."

For Ashburton's first training session, nearly two hundred children attended and £2,500 worth of equipment and coaching was provided for each school by the national governing bodies. Yates said: "What we tried to do was to develop a team spirit. There was no use the footballers practising if the netball play-



ers didn't. There were no stars, everyone was together." Members of staff who had a particular knowledge of sports such as chess or cycling volunteered to help. Right across the capital, enthusiasm welled up. Gordon Secker, the head of PE at Grey Court, Richmond, said: "The event has shifted the focus from traditional team games that we normally do to embrace other interests."

The final at Grey Court last Friday was hectic with nearly

five hundred pupils alternately competing and congratulating each other.

All nine disciplines are of equal value with points collated towards the total. Even if the competition were based on playground sport, Inner London schools, such as Hackney Free, will have the disadvantage of a lack of on-site facilities and restricted budgets.

Adrian Mullis, Hackney Free's head of PE, said: "There is incredible athletic ability in Hackney, the highest of all the 12 schools in which I have worked. However, a lot relies on the staff's enthusiasm. You have to badger pupils to remind them when extracurricular training is taking place."

Mullis believes that the educational philosophy in PE is changing. "There used to be too much investigation," he said. "For instance, here is a football how can I move it? It got the pupil thinking, but is

this what we want in PE? Children want to be taught in competitive activities."

The involvement of girls has been another cohesive factor for mixed schools. David Owen, the head of PE at Bishop Ramsey School, Hillingdon, said: "A talented girl at sport is no longer thought to be strange. She's accepted and appreciated by other pupils."

The final scores were: Grey Court 192, Ashburton 188, Bishop Ramsey 182, Hackney 164. Some of the competitors at Hackney Free, who had been impressive in the qualifying rounds, found the final a novel and fraught experience. Mullis said: "The competition has got to our team, because they are not used to tense situations. However, I know they have benefited. If we had this event going on in every city and county in Britain, the kids have got to improve and so, eventually, would our national teams."

## SPEEDWAY

## Poole in tyre-tampering row

By TONY HOARE

THE Speedway Control Board (SCB) has cracked down on "widespread" cheating among riders after a remarkable result in the Speedway Star Cup at Poole last Wednesday.

Poole beat Eastbourne 73-17, just two points short of a whitewash. When Eastbourne were contacted by the SCB about the result, they claimed that the Poole riders had sprayed their tyres with an acid-type substance to gain an unfair advantage. Tyres made of harder compound rubber are in use in Great Britain this year to slow the sport down, but they create greater wheel-spin and the spray is understood to soften them.

On SCB instructions, the referees at Sheffield and Ipswich on Thursday told riders that they would be impounding two tyres from each team for testing. Riders at the Ipswich v Coventry Elite League match, however, admitted altering their tyres and all 12 tyres were taken

away after the meeting to be tested by Dunlop, the tyre manufacturer. Jim Lawrence, the referee, allowed the meeting to go ahead because both teams had owned up to tampering and neither would have had an advantage.

David Hughes, the manager of the SCB, issued a statement to all tracks on Friday and wants riders and

Results ..... 40

officials to inform the board of any further examples of tyre-tampering. The statement said: "The problem of tyres being modified [treated] with a substance or substances appears to be extremely widespread." At least six Elite and Premier League clubs are understood to have softened their tyres, but it was the Poole result that brought the practice to the forefront.

Bob Dugard, the Eastbourne chairman, said that he

regretted not confiscating tyres from the Poole team after the match and felt that they should have been thrown out of the competition. "It would have been the only honourable thing to do," he said. "Poole have gone through by bending the rules."

"It's been a tragedy for the new Elite League because people have been looking for any excuse to rubbish it and we couldn't have given them a better one. It leaves a very bitter taste in our mouths because we were humiliated by them on Wednesday, totally unfairly, and that is very difficult to accept."

Peter Ansell, the Poole promoter, declined to comment on the tyre-tampering allegations, but said: "There has now been a release from the SCB and we will have to go along with it. I believe Eastbourne were beaten by a superior team and they have blown it up out of all proportion. Are they trying to justify scoring 17 points?"

## BOXING

## Brown seeks rematch after premature finish

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NEVILLE BROWN is to seek a rematch after his bid for the European middleweight title against Hassine Cherifi, of France, was controversially stopped in the sixth round at Swadlincote on Saturday.

Brown, Brendon Ingle, his trainer, and Frank Warren, the promoter, were disappointed that Daniel van der Wiele, the referee from Belgium, "jumped in" too quickly when Brown was backed up against the ropes and trying to ride out an assault by Cherifi.

Ingle said: "It was a terrible decision. Neville was well in front at the time and he had already put the other guy down three times. So he should have been allowed to fight on. It was very close to the end of the round."

The rematch will depend on whether Warren can entice the champion to make a voluntary defence. "It would be nice to get him back here," Warren said. Certainly, the European

Boxing Union will not order a rematch as it will not doubt consider its referee's action justified.

Van der Wiele said afterwards: "Brown was trapped on the ropes and took four or five shots without being able to defend himself. Then I saw a big right hand and the eye was badly cut, so I stopped it."

It is a pity that Brown was stopped on a cut because, on my scorecard, he had won all but one of the rounds up to then and had knocked Cherifi down three times, twice in the first round and once in the third. Had he been able to continue, he would almost certainly have won.

Paul Ingle, of Scarborough, makes the first defence of his British featherweight title against Michael Aldis, of Crawley, at Hull ice rink tonight. Having stopped Colin Macmillan, who is a much better boxer than Aldis, Ingle should have few problems.

## NETBALL

## Law makes difference in cup final

By A CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND captains past and present have exerted a significant influence on league and cup netball this season. While Kendra Slawinski, the former England leader, steered Bedfordshire, her county side, to the Inter-Counties League championship, Fiona Murtagh, her successor, led Essex Metropolitan to the sport's equivalent of football's FA Cup.

It was somehow appropriate that Essex Met's compensation for finishing league runners-up to Bedfordshire was to beat Slawinski's team in knockout circumstances, prevailing 9-5 at the end of a tense final in Middlesbrough last week.

The difference on Teeside was Lorraine Law, Essex Met's 6ft 3in goal shooter, whose height and accuracy from varying angles proved a decisive factor. Yet, over the league season, Bedfordshire's surprise dark horse possessed the greater staying power.

While Bedford and Basildon may be the places to play netball at present, North Durham, the newly-crowned third division champions, are producing an exciting crop of young England and senior international squad members. Significantly, in the under-21 Inter-Counties Cup final, this fast-emerging county ensemble had little difficulty in thrashing Derbyshire 15-0.

Ironically, in one of her new roles coaching the country's brightest youngsters, Slawinski is actively encouraging this North Eastern renaissance.

One leading North Durham club side is Sundale, of Sunderland, and their under-16s competed in the national youth championship finals at Sittingbourne, Kent, this weekend, where they lost 10-5 to Oldham. Oldham also prevailed in the under-19 category, defeating Turf Moor, of Hertfordshire, 12-9, while Weston Park, from mid-Hampshire, beat Falcons, of Nottinghamshire, 12-6 in the under-23 section.

Ups and downs, page 40



RUGBY UNION: PROFESSIONAL VIRTUES DECIDE OUTCOME OF FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE NEW ERA

# Pride bears Wasps to title triumph

Northampton.....15  
Wasps.....26

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be no last-minute tantrums for Wasps, no white-knuckle ride against Harlequins, their London rivals, at the Stoop Memorial Ground next weekend. Amid the rain and local pride of Franklin's Gardens on Saturday, they soldiered on to the Courage Clubs Championship title, unfussy, unpretentious and largely untroubled, but indomitable in the collective pride on which their season has been founded.

Lawrence Dallaglio, an inspirational captain, put a large finger on the virtues that have carried Wasps to a far more convincing title than that which came their way in 1990: "We have maintained what we had in the past two seasons and added to that," he said. "We have become accustomed to professional rugby a bit quicker than others."

Wasps had, in a sense, to pull themselves down before they began to grow, pressurised three years ago by the resignation threat of Rob Smith, their long-serving coach, to streamline their structure, hone their recruitment, make themselves more efficient. When so large a segment of playing experience left for Newcastle at the start of last season, the process of regeneration was forced, though it may not have seemed like that at the time.

Thanks to some shrewd purchasing of fresh players and a determination not to break an agreed wage structure merely to chase some overseas player advertising his availability, Wasps can be perceived to have judged the pace of the new era remarkably well.

All the more, given that the spine of the team was introduced only this season: Mitchell and Sheasby, at hooker and No. 8, arrived from Harlequins. King at stand-off half from Bristol University and Rees, at full back, from Newport. Only Gomersall, the

scrum half, was there already, although it was Martyn Wood, 20 last Friday, who was at the helm against Northampton.

Whether Wasps are playing the best rugby in England is a moot point, but championships, as Dallaglio himself observes, are won over a season. Wasps suffered their decline in mid-season, largely in the Heineken and Pilkington Cups, yet the European experience has given them an awareness of where they must strengthen the team.

Throughout the season there has been an awareness about Wasps of the game's basic realities, an appreciation that they share with those other men in black from New Zealand. King, whose badly bruised back forced a premature departure on a stretcher, has learnt well, but, on Saturday, it was embodied in Gareth Rees, who kicked 16

Full results and league tables . Page 40

points, taking his league total for the season to 274, and who brought his vision of where and how the game can be played.

Few would have chosen the little chip-kick out of his own 22 in the second half, when the Wasps line was under siege for lengthy periods, but Rees saw it as an attacking weapon on a greasy pitch that would have Northampton's wing and full back floundering. So it proved. Nor was it coincidence that Rees delivered the scoring pass for both tries, to Roiser in the first half and Logan in the dying moments of the match.

That final try concealed the gnawing anxiety that Wasps must have felt in the middle period of the game. Hephher, whose first three penalty goals gave Northampton a 9-3 lead in the opening quarter, kicked a fourth to rein back Wasps' advantage to seven points, and then a fifth, with four minutes to play, which made it 19-15. In between those kicks, Northampton might have equalised,

and it is typical of Wasps' season that they did not.

Northampton could seldom put any width on their attacks, but Hephher slipped through the black web with only Rees between him and the line. He accepted the tackle and slipped the ball to Merlin, the No. 8, but, as he drove for the line, Rees and Greenwood, the locks, enveloped him in so telling a tackle that the ball could not be touched down.

Wasps have learnt, too, from New Zealand not to commit too many players to the ruck or maul, so their defensive line is seldom fractured. Against a Northampton team that lost Townsend with a neck injury midway through the first half, they almost invariably had two players available to tackle the ball carrier, sometimes earning the turnover, sometimes prepared to slow the ball down in a way that is dependent upon legal interpretation for success or failure.

An adverse penalty count of 11-11 suggests that their methods were not always appreciated, but Rees, with four penalty goals from six attempts, kept Wasps in touch and his perceptive pass gave Roiser the space to go outside. Hunter and into the corner for his ninth league try of the season.

Logan, too, has scored nine league tries since joining Wasps from Stirling County, but in only eight games. His was the denouement: Northampton, running once more out of defence where they created so many problems for themselves, allowed the ball to go down in midfield and Rees stretched between two defenders to scoop up the pass for Logan to run in and alleviate every Wasps' fear. They have deserved it.

**SCORES:** Northampton: Penalty goals: Hephher (3); Wasps: Tries: Rees, Logan; Conversion: Rees (2); Penalty goals: Rees (4).  
**NORTHAMPTON:** 1. Hunter, 2. Rees, 3. Townsend, 4. Allen, 5. Thompson, 6. Hephher, 7. Dawson, 8. Mitchell, 9. Clark, 10. Sheasby, 11. Phillips, 12. Gomersall, 13. Cusack, 14. Martin, 15. Townsend, 16. Mor (20min).  
**WASPS:** 1. Rees, 2. Foster, 3. Greenwood, 4. Henderson, 5. Logan, 6. King, 7. Wood, 8. Mooney, 9. Mitchell, 10. Green, 11. Dallaglio, 12. Gomersall, 13. Rees, 14. Rees, 15. White, 16. Gomersall, 17. Rees, 18. Rees, 19. Rees, 20. Rees, 21. Rees, 22. Rees, 23. Rees, 24. Rees, 25. Rees, 26. Rees, 27. Rees, 28. Rees, 29. Rees, 30. Rees, 31. Rees, 32. Rees, 33. Rees, 34. Rees, 35. Rees, 36. Rees, 37. Rees, 38. Rees, 39. Rees, 40. Rees, 41. Rees, 42. Rees, 43. Rees, 44. Rees, 45. Rees, 46. Rees, 47. Rees, 48. Rees, 49. Rees, 50. Rees, 51. Rees, 52. Rees, 53. Rees, 54. Rees, 55. Rees, 56. Rees, 57. Rees, 58. Rees, 59. Rees, 60. Rees, 61. Rees, 62. Rees, 63. Rees, 64. Rees, 65. Rees, 66. Rees, 67. Rees, 68. Rees, 69. Rees, 70. Rees, 71. Rees, 72. Rees, 73. Rees, 74. Rees, 75. Rees, 76. Rees, 77. Rees, 78. Rees, 79. Rees, 80. Rees, 81. Rees, 82. Rees, 83. Rees, 84. Rees, 85. Rees, 86. Rees, 87. Rees, 88. Rees, 89. Rees, 90. Rees, 91. Rees, 92. Rees, 93. Rees, 94. Rees, 95. Rees, 96. 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# A man who gave England courage and conviction

Off the field as much as on it, Will Carling made an indelible mark as captain of the national team. Simon Barnes salutes his contribution

Newspapers say it's an individual thing. It is not. It's a collective thing. It's a team, a group, it's the pride of brothers. We must not leave people on the ground. Never leave a colleague down. Look after each other. Protect each other.

Those words, delivered in private, and recorded by Frank Keating, a privileged observer, tell us what Carling is about. Carling the rugby player, I mean. Carling the rugby captain. Carling has fulfilled many roles in national and sporting life, but, in these words, ordinary enough in all conscience, we can hear a Harlequin conviction. It was this sense of conviction that got him there, and that kept him there: 72 caps for England, an

unprecedented 59 of them as captain. He resigned as captain last year and had an unexpected final fling, one of the boys at last, under the new captain, Phil de Glanville.

Now, with the sense of timing that has only occasionally deserted him, he announces his retirement from the international game. It is a significant passing.

## 'He was rugby union's first star'

Carling was rugby union's first star. Others, such as Richards and Campese, have been cult figures. But Carling was known outside the clubbable and self-admiring circles of rugby union: he became rugby's Botham, rugby's Gazza. Far better behaved of course, and, for that matter, far more consistent, if far less inspired than either as a player. But it is a rule of celebrity, nobody that famous avoids trouble.

The odd thing is that Carling has never been a poser, never really an extrovert. There is still a trace of shyness in him. It is a pleasant aspect of an altogether agreeable man.

Carling was swift to read the winds of fame. Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, made him captain at the age of 22. Carling was a smoothie subaltern at the time, and English rugby was both a backwater and a national disaster area. Cooke was to change all this through coherence, consistency and Carling.

Carling surfed the wave with élan. He saw the growing importance of sport in national life, the growing success of the England team, and placed himself at the crest of it all. It was, in the eighties-speak of the time, a window of opportunity, and Carling leapt through it. Fame for Carling was, at least at the beginning, neither a gift nor a

curse but a commercial asset. He founded a company called, initially, Inspirational Horizons, and he gave "motivational talks" to businessmen. Your chance to meet Will Carling; the company pays.

And no doubt he gave, and gives, value for money, for he is not a man likely to put himself in the wrong in so obvious a fashion. Carling, by delving into the business-community heartland of his sport on his own account, offended the purists in rugby union who felt he was defiling the sacred things of amateurism. Surely it is for administrators to wheedle money out of business, not players. There was a strong sub-current of opinion in rugby that it would be a good thing if England in general and Carling in particular were to fail.

Thus the gap between players and administrators, always wide in this sport, stretched to Grand

Canyon width. If an administrator wanted to see what rugby was coming to, he had only to look at Carling, cheekily driving a Mercedes, and one he had earned by the sweat of his increasingly famous brow.

They would have got rid of them a long time ago if they could, many of the dinosaurs, but Carling had the loyalty of Cooke, and of the players, the pride of brothers. And his form on the field was wonderfully consistent: he was never arrogant or foolish enough to put himself in the wrong that way, either. Never a spectacular player, his best asset with the ball in his hands was his ability to break a tackle and unload to Underwood outside him. It was in the less noticeable area of defence that he truly excelled: as hard in the tackle as any back that ever played.

But fame is ever a two-edged

sword, and Carling was caught, and memorably, twice over. Tripping each time, it must be said, over the Achilles' heel of his own vanity. Well, who could resist a princess? The Princess-led downgrading of the Royal Family and the Carling-led upgrading of rugby and sport in national life: it had to happen.

It was Carling's charm, his willingness to please, that caused him to drop the infamous remark in which, off the record, he described the Rugby Football Union committee as "old farts". As with the Princess business, he was undone by the media's sneakiness: the tape was still running and was broadcast.

Five years ago, it would have been the end for Carling. But as ever, Carling was unaccountably lucky in his timing. As players rallied beside him and sport's opinion-formers spoke out for him, it

turned out to be the beginning of the end of the old farts.

Rugby union still struggles over the transition to professionalism, but at least it is now a battle fought without hypocrisy. And the breakthrough was made, if inadvertently, by Carling. He was England's first modern rugby player; now, as the sport moves uneasily into the

post-modern era, he has stepped down. It had to come. Already, with the passing of Cooke, the coherence and the loyalty within the England team had gone.

Carling's rather touching attempts to reinvent himself this season as a stand-off give away his own restlessness, his own sense that an era of his life, perhaps the defining one, has ended. He is a decent man as well as a fine player and captain; one wishes him luck.

Not that he will need it. He has always had the nous to make his own, you see.

## Carling gets his timing right

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING, who, during the past decade, has become the most visible face that English rugby has known, confirmed yesterday that he would play no more internationals. Thus, a player who made 72 appearances for his country and led them on a world-record 59 occasions, leaves the stage on which he has helped to transform a national sport.

The decision, though widely expected, comes earlier than Carling himself suggested when, last month, during preparations for what turned out to be his last cap, against Wales in Cardiff, he said that he would give himself the summer in which to reflect. However, if it is in his own interests that he has decided now, it is also in those of the England management, who can plan the redevelopment of their midfield on tour in Argentina next month.

It is not given to all leading sportsmen to choose the moment for their departure; most of those involved in team sports have the decision thrust upon them by selectors, coaches or managers. Carling, 31, though, has always possessed a shrewd notion of his own worth, both in playing as well as business terms, and he can perceive as well as anyone the queue forming behind him.

There also comes a time when there is no more to achieve in one's chosen sport. "Maybe some players postpone the decision to stop because they are too frightened to let go of the routine and, to an extent, the status that goes with being a high-profile player," Carling wrote in the *Mail on Sunday*, to whom he has contributed a regular column for several years, yesterday.

"I believe it is far better to let go than have it ripped from you... You know inside when

it is time to go. You just lose that edge, the drive that forced you ahead of the others."

The goal this season for Carling has been to play his worth in playing terms, by retaining his England place having relinquished the captaincy at the end of the 1996 five nations' championship.

The next World Cup is still two years away and Carling acknowledges that there are other imperatives now: his developing business interests, created on the back of his rugby fame, and his domestic circumstances (he and Ali



Carling: other imperatives

Cockayne, his girlfriend, are expecting their first child). He will, however, continue to play for Harlequins.

No player retains his best form over ten seasons, but Carling, first capped against France in 1988, has done better than most. During that time, England's playing fortunes have soared to three grand slams, two triple crowns and a World Cup final in 1991. If there was a blip in Carling's career, it came in 1993, when England's championship return was modest and his own stock declined during the British Isles tour to New Zealand, when he lost his place to Scott Gibbs, of Wales.

"I'm still a bit surprised in

one sense, because he still has something to offer England."

Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, said yesterday. Carling hinted to Cooke, the man who appointed him England captain at the age of 22, a fortnight ago that he had made up his mind, and Cooke understands the desire to retire on his own terms.

"If the hunger is not there, you don't want to linger," Cooke said, "but what always stood out for me was Will's sheer mental toughness, his determination to be the best. He was a winner. Right from the early days, he had the touch of steel which is so important in the top-class game. Other players during his time brought different qualities to the role of captain, but Will's record demands that he be up there among the best in the world."

Carling's decision will come as a relief to Jack Rowell, Cooke's successor as England manager and now the team coach. The decision to pair him with Phil de Glanville, the captain this season, was made to ensure a strong central focus for a refurbished team, but it brought two similar players together and limited the opportunities for the gifted Jeremy Guscott and the potential of Will Greenwood, two centres who will tour with the Lions this summer.

Now Rowell cannot be stigmatised as the man who dropped a national institution and can concentrate in Argentina on developing the next strata of England midfield players — Nick Greenstock, Matt Allen, Jos Baxendell — alongside de Glanville. At the same time, he knows that he has Guscott and Greenwood available when it comes to selection for the demanding string of November internationals against South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.



As time runs out on the old National Stadium, a stadium clock is paraded for the eyes of potential buyers at the Arms Park auction yesterday

## Sporting era ends with bric-a-brac sale

By ANDREW LONGMORE

ANYONE arriving at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday with an eye for a nostalgic bargain would have been severely disappointed by the fixtures and fittings of a century. Not even the most ardent Welsh romantic could get dewy-eyed about a Zanussi chip fryer or a Numatic vacuum cleaner, however many great days of passion they had seen down the years.

For all the cheery auctioneering cries of "this is history, this is history", the bowels of a modern stadium are not, on the whole, the stuff of legend. The old wooden locker that belonged to Barry John and bore the footprint of some irate forward from long ago disappeared in the last redevelopment, to be replaced by a more functional changing-room of aluminium pegs and formica benches. The smell of linament just about survived

from the Swalec Cup final the previous day, but plastic does not absorb smells as readily as oak. The old metal teapot (without lid) looked as if, like Welsh rugby, it had seen better days, but sadly it was not for sale — unlike Welsh rugby, some might say.

A desultory crowd of about 200, well below what the Welsh Rugby Union and Henry Butcher, the auctioneer, had hoped, toyed rather self-consciously with a list of imitation pot plants, crockery, carpets and chairs. The atmosphere was more Sunday car boot sale than Sotheby's, though the family silver was being pawned to pay for the extravagance of the next generation.

The first lot, a mahogany-finish four-section cloak unit, fetched £25, a pair of part-glazed doors a tanner and a quantity of glasses ("Gareth Edwards might have drunk from these, ladies and gentle-

man") a whopping £45, hardly a massive indent on the £60 million that the WRU owes to Barclays Bank as its part of the £108 million development of the new stadium.

The main bidders in the opening session were a couple of rag-and-bone men from down Neath way, who had a canny eye for a good deal and cared not much for the "historic and unique" occasion advertised by Peter Caldwell, the chief auctioneer. Nevertheless, items went briskly, some to souvenir hunters out for a day, others to more serious collectors, the majority to the second-hand junk trade.

For one man, the dismantling of a lifetime had a bitter poignancy. Tony Horne, the head groundsman at the Arms Park for the past 12 years, has invested more time than anyone in the 5,000 square metres of turf that provided the stage for so many of rugby's greatest names, and to watch it being

parcellled off in bits, at least half bought by an Italian restaurateur for a mere song, tested his emotions to bursting.

"It's very sad," he said. "Every day, I'd walk through those gates and feel the hairs on my neck stand up. I have 12 years of memories from here and I'll take them with me to my grave." His own highlight was the centenary celebration game in 1985-86 season, which brought the greatest international players together to play on his turf. "Everywhere you turned, there was another immortal," Horne recalled. "It was brilliant."

From midnight last night, the National Stadium turned from a rugby citadel to a construction site — a designated hard hat area either way. At least there was a memorable curtain call for the Arms Park, a game of real passion between those old rivals, Cardiff and Swansea, graced by a

try by Nigel Walker worthy of comparison with any. Bouncing off one tackle, turning inside another, sprinting for the line over the desperate outstretched arm of the Swansea full back, Walker, the Cardiff wing, etched one final memory on to the honours board. The try, as all great tries should, turned the match on its head, dedicating Swansea and lifting Cardiff.

In January 1999 the new stadium will be ready, on the same site but rotated through 90 degrees and with a retractable roof. Mercifully, memories are portable, immune to the thud of the auctioneer's hammer. They will re-emerge to fill the new Arms Park (not the Millennium Stadium, please) along with the chip pan friers and imitation potted plants. Maybe the pockmarked old teapot will make the sentimental journey, too. You know, the one that Barry John once drank from.

## ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE LOWEST FUEL PRICES?



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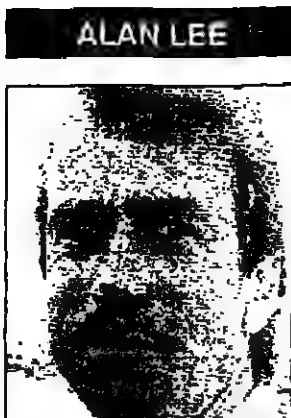
# Jones transforms Derbyshire with positive thinking

COUNTY cricket is a demanding business. From April to September it consumes lives and minds. The players will see far more of each other than of their families and will come to know intimately the hopes and habits, secrets and lies, of their colleagues.

In such an environment, camaraderie is an essential. A club in which the component parts continually grate upon each other will advertise this disunity on the field. Unless they are a supremely gifted bunch, they will then inevitably underachieve when compared to a county whose players embrace that thing called team spirit.

It is a capricious virtue, one that comes more easily to the teams who win as a matter of routine. Adversity, though, is sometimes a powerful stimulus — just look at Sussex, dismissed as the natural wooden-spoons this season and yet, with a rag-bag collection of diehards and discards, taking charge of their fixture against Northamptonshire before the weather had the final say at Hove on Saturday, as it did everywhere else.

There are teams who will go on winning without spirit, of course, though Raymond Illingworth is positive that the dominant Yorkshire sides of



Championship Commentary

his early years would have done even better if the older players had ever bothered to speak to the youngsters. "Our team spirit was never good," he said, "but it might have been better if the senior players had at least stayed in the same hotel as the rest of us." Championship teams have engendered spirit in individual ways. Middlesex, under Mike Brearley, had a diverse collection of players whose dressing-room relationships were abrasive but never exclusionist; Essex, under Keith Fletcher, hid their professionalism

behind legendary pranks and social excesses; and then, last year, came Leicestershire and James Whitaker's triumph of bonding and self-belief among players more inclined to think themselves second-class.

Just behind Leicestershire came Derbyshire. It seemed hardly possible. They had won the title just once, 60 years previously; in addition, they had a downbeat image, a derided ground, had narrowly escaped bankruptcy only two years earlier and were notorious for dressing-room rancour. More players wanted to leave them than join.

Into this unpromising atmosphere came two Australians — the shrewd Les Stilleman, as coach, and the charismatic Dean Jones, as captain. We English had perhaps tended to underestimate Jones, accepting the flair of his batting but ignorant of the depths of his character. He was seen, in shallow terms, as a strutting, arrogant Aussie, but there is far more to him than that.

Jones tackled the problems of the Derby dressing-room square-on. He made it an excuse-free zone, insisting upon honest self-analysis rather than whingeing, and set the tone himself. He banned the players from using mobile phones and from sleeping during play — everyone had to watch the cricket and make plenty of supportive noise.

He also dropped the custom of fines for missed catches or turning up late and instituted encouragement awards — a whip-round of £2 a head every time someone made a century or took five wickets, the pool providing an end-of-season party. All this was designed to stress the positive rather than the negative and the response of his players is obvious.

Arguably, nobody benefited more than Chris Adams, who had his most prolific season and identified closely with Jones's methods. Yet, when the season ended, the England selectors did not reward him with so much as an A-four place. Adams intensified his efforts to leave the club, going "so far" as to threaten a case in the European Courts of Justice when they declined to release him.

Adams has stayed on sufferance, seething with frustration because he believes that his ambitions would be better served elsewhere. Jones, with whom he has no personal grievance, returned this spring knowing that he had to renege a prime asset. It has not taken him long.

Helped, perhaps, by inclusion in The Rest team for the putative Test trial last weekend, Adams has quickly demonstrated that he will not be sulking or malingering. On Saturday he made a century at Canterbury against one of the strongest attacks in the championship. His partner, voluble and inspiring, in a stand of 202, was Jones.

With 89 needed and seven wickets intact, rain robbed Derbyshire of a remarkable victory. Jones was unbeaten on 99. The captain will regret the first loss, give little thought to the second and take immense and justified consolation from a far greater victory. He has recaptured the focus of Chris Adams. He has banished a serious threat to team spirit. Derbyshire's championship odds should be cut accordingly.



Moore, watching his side bat against Northamptonshire, is tackling a difficult assignment with enthusiasm. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

## Moore's offering tenacity and hope

Simon Wilde meets the new captain of Sussex, a team for which pundits predict a season of struggle after a winter of upheaval

When Sussex dismissed Alan Wells as captain last winter and catapulted themselves into the most turbulent six months of their history, the name of his successor, Peter Moore, raised barely a flicker of interest. There were, after all, more interesting things going on.

The choice of Moore was widely perceived as Hobson's choice. He was the resident vice-captain and senior capped player, but with so many members of the staff on their way to pastures new, there was scarcely a surfeit of alternatives. Moore, it was thought, had been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

That is not how Moore himself sees it. "It did not shock me getting the captaincy, though what went on around the captaincy did," he said. "I have always enjoyed captaining the side in my own mind. It was clear we needed

to change. After all, we had not won a trophy for ten years."

Nor did Moore's appointment surprise Tony Pigott, who roused the members to "rise up" against the old committee and is now chief executive. He is a close friend, having roomed with Moore for seven years when they were team-mates and is godfather to his three-year-old daughter, Natalie.

"Peter is a very good pro," he said. "He is always positive and thinks deeply about the game. When we were playing together, he would help me with my bowling, whether I was doing badly or well."

Moore, 34, is embarking on his fifteenth and most important season of county cricket. It has not been a smooth journey. The first two

were spent with Worcestershire, where Steve Rhodes was then brought in ahead of him, and when he moved to Hove he had three years deputising for Ian Gould.

He eventually established himself as a competent wicketkeeper-batsman whose career average dwells in the lower twenties, but has had his critics. During the winter, Robin Marlar, now Sussex's chairman, claimed Moore was not as good behind the stumps as Martin Speight, who left to fulfil his wicketkeeping ambitions at Durham.

But Moore is nothing if not tenacious. Last July he was left out for one Axa Equity & Law League game, so that Speight could be given a chance with the gauntlets. His response was to score a

defiant, unbeaten championship century against Surrey six days later. He was not dropped again.

"Peter is different off the pitch than on it," Pigott said. "He is popular with the members, who probably think he is just a nice, unassuming man. But on the pitch he shows terrific enthusiasm. He would run through a brick wall for you. Only those who have played with him would know that."

Promotion has given Moore greater confidence and he exudes an impressive self-assurance when he talks about his ambitions for a team that is so ravaged that it is not supposed to have any.

"What I am emphasising to the players is the need for a different mental approach," he said. "We need to control

ourselves to play well under pressure, which can be hard in county cricket, which is something of a marathon. We must try to get away from the fear of failure. We are here to play and to enjoy ourselves."

Judging by the spirited performance they gave in the opening championship game against Northamptonshire, the Sussex players are doing just that. "What I am endeavouring to do is be honest and fair," Moore added. "If you talk straight with the players, they will know you are doing your best for the club. I will be looking to the likes of Bill Athey and Neil Taylor for advice but want to encourage the players to think about the wider game and, to an extent, captain themselves."

"We have always been labelled under-achievers. If we can now over-achieve, perhaps we will create the environment in which those coming into the side catch the mood and do the same."

## Harassed Lamb taken to a media slaughter

TIM LAMB has been a busy man this week (Alan Lee writes). Harassed, in fact. Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has had to waste more time than he would choose watering down the inflated reaction to one more speculative suggestion about the future structure of the county championship.

When, in one of many interviews that he has given on the subject, Lord MacLaurin, of the new chairman of the board, mooted that a system of two randomly chosen "leagues", with play-offs, might be viable, people who should know better took this as gospel.

Radio stations ran phone-ins on the basis that this was the future face of English cricket. Cefax, whose response to newspaper stories varies from hysterical to invisible, joined in the drum-beating; and Lamb was seldom off his mobile phone, explaining to media outlets that nothing had been decided.

The newspapers were at it

again yesterday — more tracts of proposals from the game's luminaries, apparent solutions to whatever ails the game.

Much of the speculation is either flimsy or misguided. MacLaurin's suggestion, taken at face value, would actually have the counties playing more, rather than less. More damagingly, it is portraying English cricket in an absurdly diseased light. Of course, the county structure requires change, but the game is not in crisis, as we are being led to believe by such fuss.

Lamb acknowledges this concern. "We have consulted widely on the issue and there is a general consensus that we need to do something, but no consensus at all on how to do it," he said. "The chairman was simply outlining one or two possibilities and the reaction is entirely out of proportion."

The most pertinent words of the chief executive came from the heart. "The time has come when the talking must stop," he said, "and the action must start."



And a beer to go with it.



BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

## Lloyd catches eye with rapid-fire success

By Derek Hodgson

MY FIRST sight of Graham Lloyd was on a bleak and gloomy third afternoon at Headingley, when Yorkshire felt that they had saved a Roses match. Lancashire had lost early wickets in chasing something like 140 off 20 overs and, when young Lloyd appeared at No 6 or 7, they were needing ten an over.

"Young Bumble", as he was known, in reference to his father, David, now the England coach, had been spoken of as a corner since his Accrington boyhood. Graham first appeared in that club's under-13 team when nine years old and made his Lancashire League debut at 14, batting against Test professionals. We were probably expecting a right-handed version of David.

The next half-hour was an eye-opener as Graham, little known to Yorkshire, flayed their bowling with astonishing verve, nerve and power. He still smiles at the memory. "Aye, I enjoyed that. I muddled it right away and we very nearly got there," he said.

Now 27, he has become to look more like his father on and off the field, the youthful chubbiness pared away. He is a sharply focused player, extremely aware of his strength and weaknesses. The strengths in this past year have been formidable.

He hit 241 against Essex last year, the first hundred coming off 70 balls. He took 76 balls to reach a hundred against Yorkshire a fortnight ago, 151 to complete a score of 225. In the opening Britannia Assurance county championship match, against Durham last Wednesday, he needed 80 balls for 102.

Lloyd does more than score quickly; he gets very big scores quickly. Such turbo-charged batting attracted his father and the England selectors last season and the younger Lloyd appeared in two Texaco Cup matches against Pakistan. He scored two not out and 15, and said: "I found it difficult at that level, especially against their right-hand spinner, Saqlain."

"I know my technique is not as good as the majority. My advantage is that I do get to middle the ball early and can then hit quickly. I'm always anxious to keep the score moving. I have had a couple of quiet years, but last summer I felt I was running into my best form so far."

"I was especially pleased with my 81 in the NatWest semi-final. We had lost a few wickets and I had to take care and concentrate and was fortunate enough to put on a few with John Crawley that helped us to win."

Today Lancashire begin the defence of the Benson and Hedges Cup against Yorkshire. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, David Lloyd and the other selectors will be checking the candidates for the Texaco Cup squad to face Australia this summer.

Last year, when Graham Lloyd was chosen, he learnt of his selection from the television screen. Could his father not have given him a call?



Lloyd: sharply focused

### SCOREBOARDS

#### Britannia Assurance county championship

##### Essex v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four) Essex 115 (1st innings) 115 (2nd innings) 115 (3rd innings) 115 (4th innings) 115 (5th innings) 115 (6th innings) 115 (7th innings) 115 (8th innings) 115 (9th innings) 115 (10th innings) 115 (11th innings) 115 (12th innings) 115 (13th innings) 115 (14th innings) 115 (15th innings) 115 (16th innings) 115 (17th innings) 115 (18th innings) 115 (19th innings) 115 (20th innings) 115 (21st innings) 115 (22nd innings) 115 (23rd innings) 115 (24th innings) 115 (25th innings) 115 (26th innings) 115 (27th innings) 115 (28th innings) 115 (29th innings) 115 (30th innings) 115 (31st innings) 115 (32nd innings) 115 (33rd innings) 115 (34th innings) 115 (35th innings) 115 (36th innings) 115 (37th innings) 115 (38th innings) 115 (39th innings) 115 (40th innings) 115 (41st innings) 115 (42nd innings) 115 (43rd innings) 115 (44th innings) 115 (45th innings) 115 (46th innings) 115 (47th innings) 115 (48th innings) 115 (49th innings) 115 (50th innings) 115 (51st innings) 115 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## CRICKET

# Languorous Leicester completely outplayed

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss; Gloucestershire 141pts) beat Leicestershire by 111 runs

ON A sweltering day at Cheltenham last July, Gloucestershire amassed their highest ever Sunday score, but were still beaten by Leicestershire with three overs to spare. They made 48 runs fewer in the corresponding fixture yesterday, but it was more than sufficient to achieve what must be thought one of the upsets of the opening round.

Leicestershire, requiring 237 on a blameless surface and in bright sunshine, declined feebly to 125 for nine. For the home crowd, at least, it was as well their team had not batted first, or such entertainment as there was would have been embarrassingly short-lived.

It would be an understatement to say Gloucestershire seldom shine at Sunday cricket. One of only three counties yet to win the league, they habitually camp in the lower reaches of the table. Here, however, they overcame a team apparently far better equipped.

Leicestershire played as teams tend to do in August if their interest in the prize-money has gone. They were languorous and undisciplined. As this is still April and Grace Road is still buzzing with championship memories, it was a puzzling performance, one sure to have dressing-room repercussions.

It is not enough for them to claim they are missing their overseas player, Phil Simmons was highly influential last year but the club has been pursuing an unknown South African all-rounder named Neil Johnson with almost unhealthy vigour. He would have made little difference here — and, anyway, Gloucestershire are getting by without

both Courtney Walsh and Andrew Symonds.

Leicestershire's recent record in all one-day cricket is shocking and it will be concerning everyone at this ambitious club. They began well enough yesterday. James Whitaker won the toss, his players burst from the pavilion in their new parrot-coloured strip and Gloucestershire, perhaps dazzled, subsided to an unpromising 140 for five after 30 overs.

Mumtaz Ali, in his stand-out-deliver style, had gone in first and struck an uncomplicated 42 but his bizarre dismissal, miscuing a high full-toss as Dakin's slower ball malfunctioned, began an ominous slide. Young and Russell were out to strokes they would rather forget during a single over of left-arm spin from Brinson, who then had Cunliffe neatly stumped.

The catalyst of change was Mark Alleyne. He had made an unenviable century in the Cheltenham fixture last year and now bestrode the closing overs while Wright and then Hancock blazed away with him. Hancock's 30 came from only 18 balls and included 21 in an over from Gordon Parsons, who for once looked his use.

Vince Wells clipped the first ball of the reply to extra-cover, where Alleyne dived to catch him, and Leicestershire never recovered. They lost Whitaker, pulling frustratedly, and Maddy, crazily run out, in the sixth over and Nixon in the eighth. Few teams, even those with Leicestershire's self-confidence, come back from 19 for four.

Young, bowling with rhythm and life, took out the dangerous Habib and Dakin and the game died a meandering death, complete with jeering acclaim for Leicestershire's face-saving passing of 100.



Barnett, beaten by a direct hit from Liong, was one of four Derbyshire batsmen to be run out at Canterbury

## Walker weighs in to Derby attack

BY PAT GIBSON

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss; Kent 4pts) bt Derbyshire by six wickets

IT WAS hard to believe that Matthew Walker, the former Young England captain, had scored only one previous Sunday League 50 — and that all of three years ago — as he sped Kent towards victory in the evening sunshine yesterday. His innings of 80, made from only 74 balls, enabled them to coast home with some 8½ overs to spare.

Sunday cricket seems to be made for Walker who, without wishing to be too unkind, could double as Mr Roly Poly during the tea interval to keep the kids happy.

He stands only 5ft 6in but

his fighting weight is 13st and he was carrying considerably more than that when he weighed in for the new season.

Not that his bulk has ever affected his sporting prowess. He has captained England at hockey at schoolboy level, played rugby for Kent, had football trials with Gillingham and Chelsea and in the championship last season he made 275 not out against Somerset, the highest score ever made by a Kent player at Canterbury.

Surprising, then, that he did not make more than 27 in 16 Sunday innings last year and especially so in view of the way he played yesterday after Derbyshire's self-destructing batsmen had left Kent a modest target of 185.

As ever, Fleming set the pace with a fusillade of shots, making 40 out of 67 off 42 balls with six fours, but then the left-handed Walker got into his stride, driving the ball handsomely on both sides of the wicket and cutting fiercely when Clarke, the leg spinner, pitched short. He struck ten fours in all before slashing Harris to deep backward point.

Ward had gone third ball, caught and bowled by Clarke, but Wells joined Walker in a third-wicket stand of 97 in only 15 overs which as good as settled the match.

Wells, whose only alarm came when he drove a ball from Harris against his instep from where it almost rebounded onto the stumps, finished unbeaten on 56,

scored at a run a ball with eight fours.

It all seemed so straightforward compared with the frenetic Derbyshire innings which was sabotaged by four run-outs and would have been even worse than it was but for a first Sunday 50 by Gul Khan, the former Oxford University batsman, who had made a hundred against Kent at Canterbury last season.

Barnett, DeFreitas, playing as a batsman only because of his groin strain, Krikken and Roberts were all run-out with varying degrees of culpability leaving the keen-eyed Khan to salvage what he could.

He helped his captain, Jones, put on 60 for the fourth wicket and went on to reach 61 not out, including a six and five fours.

## Lewis ensures Surrey enjoy the lion's share

Michael Henderson sees gimmicks fail to illuminate The Oval crowd

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss; Surrey 4pts) bt Somerset by three wickets

IN the car park a man on stilts, "Professor Crump", is trying to spread a little happiness. Close by is a face painter, drumming up some colourful business. The Surrey and Somerset players are on the field, running, stretching and throwing. "Roary", the club lion, wanders around the boundary edge. Three thousand people file in, indifferent to his charms.

Adam Hollis wins the toss and decides to have a bowl. To the strains of Carmina Burana he leads his players down the pavilion steps. "Let's hear it for the Surrey Lions!" says Jonny Gould, the miked-up master of ceremonies. Nadeem Shahid dances a jig with Roary rather self-consciously, like somebody who has been told to let his hair down.

Somerset, says Jonny, have agreed to enter into "the spirit of things", and their opening batsmen walk out to the heavily amplified sound of a man drowning in a vat of boiling oil. This, it transpires, is their "theme song". Spectators pass round Thermos flasks and share sandwiches. "English mustard, or French?"

In the first over Michael Burns tries to turn a ball off his legs and supplies a catch. Over the PA somebody belches. It turns out to be a lion's roar. "Alec Stewart, catching a stick there," Jonny tells us. An over later Stewart holds another catch, there is another eruption, and Chris Lewis, the successful bowler, charges towards fine leg where Shahid comes to greet him. On meeting they slap palms, and laugh.

Graham Rose hits a four. "Four runs there, to Graham Rose," says Jonny. The sun comes out. "The sun has come out," says Jonny. The elder Hollis spoils a chance to make a catch at

mid-on by diving unnecessarily. "A great effort there by Adam Hollis," says Jonny. "Cheer on the Surrey Lions!"

Somerset's innings never really gets going. Ian Salisbury takes a couple of wickets and the Hollisoakes snaffle a few down the order. Somerset are bowled out for 180. "So Surrey must make 181 for victory," says Jonny, for the benefit of the less numerate. In the tea interval there is no sign of Roary. Perhaps he is snoring.

Ally Brown and Mark Butcher open the batting for Surrey. "The sun is shining and all is well with the world," says Jonny. He congratulates Margaret on her birthday — or rather, he offers "big Surrey birthday greetings." Nobody stirs.

Brown hits three booming fours and is then out. No belch this time. A familiar figure replaces him, who is introduced as "a legend in his time, Mr Alec Stewart."

Both Butcher and Stewart are said to be "Londoners in every sense" and, to prove it, the crowd is told they support London football teams. But they fall leg before to Rose, who bowls with zip, and Somerset suddenly realise the game is there to win.

Caddick comes on at the Pavilion End and is soon winging the ball past the bat. Hollis nicks one to Turner and Thorpe, starved of width to cut, is "pressed" for room and plays on. Surrey are 69 for five and even reminders that the sun is shining fail to cheer up the Surrey members.

It needs an innings from Chris Lewis to see Surrey to their target, and he makes 68 not out from 64 balls to help them reach it from the last ball, a wide. Lewis bounds off, crossing himself, and enjoying the applause of some overheated spectators. "It doesn't get more exciting than this," Jonny says before the final ball.

As if to crown his own day, the sun comes out again.

## Mighty Moody turns on the power

BY JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire 4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets

TOM MOODY, the Worcestershire captain and destroyer of many an attack in the Sunday League, overcame the problems set by a slow pitch by going through with his strokes no matter what. This resulted in a number of mistimed shots falling between fielders, but it also proved to be the main pillar in Worcestershire's victory, achieved with eight balls to spare.

Moody's 89 came from 97 balls and contained two vast slices and seven fours. The crux of Worcestershire's effort, after Nottinghamshire had been restricted to 183 for eight, lay in a partnership of 102 in

18 overs between Moody and Graeme Hick. When Hick hit all round a ball from the excellent Tolley, who revelled in the challenge presented by playing against his old county, Noits were still in with a chance.

These two had been particularly severe on Bates, the Nottinghamshire off spinner, who went for 27 runs from his first three overs. Even when Hick was out, Moody, holder of the record number of Sunday runs scored in a season — 917 in 1991 — continued to hold sway. When he was finally caught at extra cover, only 37 runs were needed from nine overs. Spiring and Solanki saw Worcestershire safely home, despite some fine, tight bowling from Andy Pick.

Apart from Robinson's 30, full of nifty nudges, Pollard's impressive 34 and 41

from Archer, which would have been considerably fewer had a first slip been posted early in his stay, the Nottinghamshire innings was notable for the running out of Dowman. It is the first time that the use of the third umpire has been responsible for a decision in the Sunday league, promoting all sorts of observations as to whether such a system should be in use for this televised match, but in none of the seven others being played yesterday.

There is little doubt that Dowman would still have got home had the protective matting covering another pitch not sent the ball bobbling straight into the hands of Lampitt, after it had appeared to be going out of reach. A run do all round, then. Thereafter, the innings went according to the Sunday formula.

## Essex relying on traditional path

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss; Essex 4pts) beat Hampshire by three wickets

IT IS not at every ground that gimmickry will prevail on Sundays. When the Lions, the Bears and any other high-faluting sides come to Chelmsford, they will be referred to on the scoreboard and over the tannoy system strictly by the proper names of the counties. There will be no music, jungle roars or floodlights, merely a game of cricket.

The next thing that will be introduced will be bouncy castles and hurdles on the outfield," Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary/general manager, who also sits on the England and Wales Cricket Board's management committee, said.

"We are trying to mend something that isn't broken. The fact that cricketers have been wearing white clothes for 150 years is a good thing in a fast changing world. Spectators don't need all these gimmicks."

Essex have agreed to play their Axa Life match at Hove in June under floodlights, but not with whoisheated enthusiasm. "I am amazed Sussex have been given planning permission," Edwards said. "We would never receive it here. And the notion of music in Sunday matches is horrendous."

By contrast, Chelmsford yesterday staged a relatively low key affair. Hampshire, who were put in on a pitch that gave the bowlers less help than in the championship meeting last week, struggled to 71 for three off their first 20 overs and reached a respectable total only

through a partnership of 104 in 18 overs between Kendall and Keach, who are very much the future of Hampshire.

Keach struck one lovely straight six off Irani and, like Kendall, found the gaps without recourse to sloggery. Aynes and Stephenson, whom not one spectator applauded in on his return to his former county, began useful runs.

Essex began in a similarly disjointed way. Stuart Law swung Renshaw into the river and was caught at the wicket in the same over, looking to steer him to third man. Hussain laboured over his 18 runs and only when Irani started to belt the ball around did Essex keep the required rate within sight. He, Grayson and Danny Law were all run out, but Robinson was given enough support to bring about victory in the final over.

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# Durham wilt at Lloyd's assault

By Derek Hodgson

**OLD TRAFFORD** (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Durham by 57 runs

THE seemingly unstoppable Graham Lloyd might have become the first batsman to have scored 1,000 runs in April. Absurd? His aggregate in all matches is 478 and he was possibly denied by the weather of a second championship innings against Durham. He has two more Benson and Hedges matches before May Day.

Yesterday, he scored his second century against Durham in four days, and if these scores — plus the 225 and 17 made against a second-string Yorkshire attack — do not convince the critics, they do

amount to a thunderous knocking on the door of the England selectors. Lloyd reached 134 before failing to carry mid-off, unknowingly having equalled the Lancashire individual Sunday record, set by an unbeaten Clive Lloyd against Somerset in 1970. Lancashire had lost both openers for 23, the England captain contributing two crisp fours.

Lloyd, beginning four overs after John Crawley, overtook him with two fours punched through mid-wicket off Betts. Like all the outstanding batsmen, he sees the ball early and can hit it late. He drove, he saw the ball early and can hit it late. He drove, he saw the ball early and can hit it late. He drove, he saw the ball early and can hit it late.

smashed them to mid-wicket, and celebrated his fifty with a pull for six off Betts. Crawley's 83, scored in 32 overs and containing five boundaries, was also a fine innings. The pair broke one Lancashire Sunday record, the 182 raised for the third wicket by Clive Lloyd and Harry Pilling on that same occasion 27 years ago.

David Boon, the Durham captain-manager, had said of Lloyd last Wednesday: "He is very hard to bowl at as he hits through the ball, but as a captain I would not like to see him hit like that all the time. He takes too many risks." Boon will probably be pleased to see him bat again this summer.

Somewhat shellshocked, Durham then lost their open-

ers quickly, and it was once more up to Boon, bristling defiance, and Roseberry to keep a good crowd amused into the evening. It was their first view of the new Sunday uniforms. Durham now appear to be wearing blue overalls while Lancashire, in red shirts with white sleeves, could pass for Arsenal.

Boon, driving straight, punished Austin and Martin in turn and was starting to lace into Green, the promising all-rounder, when Green devalued him, the ball flying high for Hegg to take a catch running towards long leg.

If there was a silver lining to Durham's performance, it came in the batting of Roseberry, the captain last year, who showed confidence and power, playing like a man

who has cleared a few cobwebs from his mind. His winter coaching, from Don Bennett, is starting to pay dividends. Roseberry hit Green for a straight six and reached his 50 with another off Martin. He was treated to a few lollipops in the closing overs and finished just short of a century.

At no time did Durham approach the required rate of almost seven an over. Lancashire's control was never tested, the match becoming an exercise before the start of their Benson and Hedges programme against Yorkshire at Old Trafford today.

Incidentally, the prize-money for the Axa Life champions this summer is £42,000, roughly what some footballers earn as a weekly wage.



Adrian Shaw, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, can only watch as Trevor Peeney, of Warwickshire, cuts the ball away yesterday. Photograph: Huw Evans

## Glamorgan profit from Snape reminds Sussex of some harsh realities

By a Special Correspondent

By Simon Wilde

**CARDIFF** (Warwickshire won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Warwickshire on a superior scoring rate

GLAMORGAN, who were denied victory over Warwickshire by rain in their county championship encounter, took revenge in unsatisfactory circumstances in the opening Axa Life League game at Sophia Gardens yesterday.

Rain halted play with the game finely balanced on a lifeless pitch, but Glamorgan were declared winners after the new Duckworth-Lewis method, which will be used to calculate targets in all rain-affected domestic one-day matches this season, was brought into play. The English Cricket Board claims the new method is "fair, logical and straightforward", but it is doubtful whether any player or spectator without a degree in statistics would have known what target Glamorgan were chasing.

The method is so complex that the county scorers have been supplied with a computer programme to calculate it and each county has been asked to provide a match manager to resolve any conflict, because the umpires have washed their hands of the scheme.

Officially, Glamorgan's win should be recorded as "by 17 runs, using the Duckworth-Lewis method", because their target score after 20 overs, with three wickets down, was 64. Lengthy consultation between the scorers and umpires was required, however, to

confirm Glamorgan's victory. Had the game run its natural course, Glamorgan would probably have won in any case, after miserably bowling from Watkin (four for 15) and Dale (two for 18), restricted Warwickshire to an inadequate 147 for seven.

Warwickshire packed their batting with stroke-makers, but they might have been better served had they sent in the dependable Moles first instead of at No 5, by which time his side were 28 for three.

Moles and Brown revived the innings with a fourth-wicket stand of 47, but both fell in the same over from Dale and it was left to Piper and Welch to provide the acceleration to semi-respectability. Warwickshire managed only five fours and one six in their innings.

Glamorgan were given a solid start by Morris and Dale, but their innings faltered once Donald was brought into the attack. Morris was run out by Brown at point when he had second thoughts about a single, Cottee played on to the aggressive Donald and Maynard was bowled on the drive.

Whether by luck or judgment, Glamorgan managed to stay ahead of the required rate until the umpires led the players off in heavy rain at 6.10pm.

To add to Warwickshire's obvious batting problems, their new captain, Tim Munton, looks certain to have a second back operation in 26 months that will keep him out for two months.

**HOVE** (Sussex won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Sussex by nine wickets

THEY knew it already, of course, but Sussex were reminded in the harshest terms yesterday that enthusiasm and a willingness to embrace new ideas — they are planning to be the first county to play an Axa Life League match under floodlights in June — are not the only things to cricket. Playing well and winning are important, too, and they did neither of those things against Northamptonshire yesterday.

It was not that they lost that will disturb their newly installed executives. What will concern them is the manner of this defeat. Northamptonshire's winning runs coming courtesy of successive shots to the boundary by Kevin Curran off Amer Khan, the leg spinner who Sussex signed from Middlesex, with almost a quarter of their innings unused.

What essentially went wrong was that the bottom fell out of the Sussex middle order. Drakes failed as an opener but Lenham struck a breezy 41 from 46 balls and, by the start of the 23rd over, Greenfield was established and Newell settled in. The score was 107 for two.

Sussex then embarked on an irrational quarter of an hour. They lost four wickets for two runs, all to Jeremy Snape in the space of 12 balls, to give him his best figures in the competition

on his 24th birthday. Newell chipped to mid-wicket, Athey and Moores were both bowled pushing down the wrong line, and Pymont chipped a simple return catch.

The lack of depth in the Sussex batting had been brutally exposed. Dare one say it, a Wells, Speight or Law would probably not have let such a collapse happen. Pymont, whose feats at Tonbridge last year rivalled those of Colin Cowdrey, deserved his chance, but he was done no favours by the situation and did nothing for Sussex in return.

Greenfield oversaw the addition of some useful runs with the tail, but he was gone, the ninth wicket to fall, for 38, and the innings terminated long before the scheduled end. Even on a sluggish pitch on which the spinners were hard to get away, a total of 160 was going to be hard to defend.

Northamptonshire were potentially a batsman down as Warren relinquished wicketkeeping duties after taking an early bow on the right hand, but it never showed. Loe, having taken over the gloves, and Penberthy effortlessly put together a stand of 149 for the first wicket — Loe making an impressive 68, before being caught off Amer at mid-on, and Penberthy an unbeaten 74 — and that was more or less that.

Sussex came out to the sound of *One Vision*, by Queen, but their game was not that sharp.

## SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

### AXA Life League

**Essex v Hampshire**

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Hampshire by three wickets

**HAMPSHIRE**  
M J Hayden lbw b Iran 27  
J S Lacey c Hussain b Iran 21  
R A Smith b Such 3  
M Pech b Grayson 56  
W S Kendall b Iran 16  
J P Stephenson not out 21  
A N Aynes not out 13  
Extras (lb 8, w 2) 13  
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 198

**Essex**  
P J Richardson lbw b Stephenson 4  
S G Law c Aynes b Renshaw 14  
N Hussain c Hayden b Udal 18  
R C Hann run out 23  
A P Grayson run out 23  
D R Law run out 23  
D J Robertson not out 26  
M C Elliott c Stephenson b James 12  
Extras (lb 3, w 14, nb 2) 19  
Total (7 wickets, 38.5 overs) 202

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-19, 2-22, 3-82, 4-120, 5-129, 6-162, 7-184

**BOWLING:** Stephenson 8-1-37-1, Renshaw 8-1-23-1, Connor 7-5-47-0, Udal 8-0-31-1, James 8-0-19-1

**Umpires:** J C Balderson and V A Hilder

**Glamorgan v Warwickshire**

CARDIFF (Warwickshire won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Warwickshire by 17 runs (Duckworth and Lewis method)

**WARWICKSHIRE**  
D P Oaker b Watkin 0  
N M K Smith b Watkin 14  
D R Brown b Dale 30  
D L Kemp c Shaw b Watkin 19  
A J Moles c Watkin b Dale 19  
T L Pannier b Colly 8  
R J Piper not out 6  
A J Moles c Watkin b Watkin 22  
G P Eather not out 16  
Extras (lb 1, w 7) 8  
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 147

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-3, 2-23, 3-28, 4-76, 5-75, 6-112, 7-112

**BOWLING:** Watkin 8-1-25-0, Watkin 8-1-25-0, Dale 8-0-27-0, Dale 8-0-27-0, Dale 8-0-27-0, Dale 8-0-27-0

**Umpires:** M J Kitchen and D R Speight

**Kent v Derbyshire**

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Derbyshire by six wickets

**DERBYSHIRE**  
K J Barnett run out 16  
J C Adams c Wells b Ealham 31  
D J Thomas c Wells b Ealham 31  
P A J DeFreitas run out 2  
G Khan not out 71  
V P Clarke c Ealham b Strang 15  
G Khan not out 15  
P A Roberts run out 1  
P Adams c Ealham b Strang 13  
A J Khan not out 19  
Extras (lb 1, w 8, nb 2) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 184

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-21, 2-31, 3-38, 4-89, 5-127, 6-133, 7-135, 8-154

**BOWLING:** Wells 8-0-33-0, Ealham 6-0-18-1, Strang 6-0-31-0, McCague 7-0-18-1, Fleming 6-0-24-2, Long 5-0-24-0

**Umpires:** M V Fleming c Adams b Dean 40, M J Ward c Clarke b Hams 80, T R Ward c Clarke b Hams 80, A P Wells not out 56

### Lancashire v Durham

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (4pts) beat Durham by 57 runs

**LANCASHIRE**  
J E R Gailan c Collingwood b Kileen 1  
M A Atherton c Roseberry b Collingwood 12  
J P Crawley b Betts 83  
G D Lloyd c Boon b Watkin 104  
N H Fairbrother c Lewis b Baling 1  
I D Austin run out 12  
J W Hegg not out 12  
G Yates not out 12  
Extras (lb 10, w 2) 12  
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 288

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-13, 2-23, 3-220, 4-225, 5-250, 6-286

**BOWLING:** Kileen 8-1-40-1, Betts 7-0-45-1, Collingwood 5-0-29-1, Baling 7-0-43-1, Foster 5-0-54-0, Walker 8-0-47-1

**Umpires:** G I Burgess and R Palmer

**Leicestershire v Gloucestershire**

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by 111 runs

**GLoucestershire**  
R J Tranter c Whitaker b Ormond 22  
M A Lynch c Nixon b Dault 27  
R J Curdall c Nixon b Brimmon 36  
S Young b Brimmon 8  
P C Russell b Brimmon 46  
A J Wright c Whitaker b Wells 18  
T H Hancock b Mullally 38  
M C J Ball run out 3  
A M Smith not out 3  
Extras (lb 8, w 11, nb 6) 25  
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 238

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-2, 2-23, 3-66, 4-103, 5-125

**BOWLING:** Austin 8-0-34-1, Chapple 8-1-38-1, Yates 8-0-38-1, Gallian 1-0-9-0

**Umpires:** G I Burgess and R Palmer

**Sussex v Northamptonshire**

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Sussex by nine wickets

**SUSSEX**  
K Greenfield c sub b Capel 58  
V D Drakes c Warren b Loe 6  
N J Lenham c sub b Embury 41  
K Newell c Capel b Snape 11  
C W J Athey b Embury 6  
P W Loe c Curran b Embury 6  
N C Phillips c Penberthy b Bailey 2  
A Khan not out 14  
M A Robinson run out 14  
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 4) 6  
Total (35.2 overs) 180

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-6, 2-36, 3-107, 4-107, 5-108, 6-108, 7-116, 8-148, 9-154

**BOWLING:** Mohammed Alam 8-2-21-0, Taylor 8-1-25-1, Snape 8-2-14-1, Embury 8-2-18-2, Bailey 8-0-18-1, Capel 3-0-28-1

**Umpires:** M B Loe c Robinson b Khan 86, A L Penberthy not out 74, K M Curran not out 4, Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 4) 16

**Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire**

TRENT BRIDGE (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
R P Downham run out 7  
R T Robinson c Rhodes b Lampitt 30  
G F Archer c Lampitt b Leathdale 41  
P J Johnson c Spring b Chapman 3  
P R Pollard c Rhodes b Haynes 34

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-149

**BOWLING:** Drakes 8-0-25-0, Robinson 10-1-30-0, Khan 6-0-43-1, Jarvis 6-0-32-0, Phillips 6-1-33-0, Newell 1-0-7-0

**Umpires:** A G T Whitehead and G Shaw

## GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

### TODAY

#### CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup (11.10.93): Chelmsford: Essex v Glamorgan; Bristol: Gloucestershire v Somerset; Middlesex: Old Trafford: Lancashire v Yorkshire; Leicestershire: Leicestershire v Scotland; Lakenham: Minor counties v Derbyshire; Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Durham

THE OVAL: Surrey v Kent; Hove: Sussex v Hampshire; Worcester: Worcestershire v Warwickshire

BAIN HOGG TROPHY (one day): Bradford: Yorkshire v Lancashire

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

Second division

Chesterfield v Stockport (7.45)

Spalding Cup

First, second leg

Huddersfield (11.7.45)

KIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Gray

UNION LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Workington; Stockbridge PS v Ecdowtown

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chaffoy v Scitons (at Kingsmead); 7.00; Middlesex (at Luton); 12.00; Queens Park Rangers v Crystal Palace (at Wembley); 7.00

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Backburn v Nottingham Forest (7.00); Preston v West Bromwich (7.00); Wolverhampton v Port Vale (7.00); Third division: Bradford v Grimsby (7.00); Third division: Barnstaple v Wigan (7.00); Doncaster v Walsall (7.00)

SCREWPYR DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Bampton

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Sec-

### WELSH LEAGUE

First division: Bridgend v Cardiff (7.00); Newport v Llanelli (7.00)

SECOND DIVISION: Barmley v Barry (7.30)

CRICKET

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## CHANGING TIMES



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# Helissio has Epsom next on agenda

By JULIAN MUSCAT and LIZ PRICE

NOTHING stirs the blood more than the handsome return of a champion and Helissio amplified the mood of celebration at Longchamp yesterday when he ran clean away with the group one Prix Ganay over 10½ furlongs. The four-year-old, who positively toyed with a top-class field, is now poised to weave his magic on British racecourses in the Coronation Cup at Epsom next month.

It should be some occasion. On his first start since forfeiting his aura of invincibility in the Japan Cup five months ago, Helissio returned to his very best on his favoured soft surface. Trojan Sea was entered to race a generous pace for the Michael Stoute-trained Pilsudski, who chased home Helissio, albeit at a respectful distance, in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe over this course in October.

But Helissio was having none of it, stripping Trojan Sea of the advantage soon after halfway before galloping home to a thunderous ovation on the 140th anniversary of Longchamp's opening fixture. Pilsudski gave vain chase up

the home straight but his exertions told in the closing stages as Le Destin robbed him of second place.

"Helissio was simply brilliant today," Pilsudski's jockey, Michael Kinane, said. "He was just too good for us." Strategic Choice and Last Second, two other raiders from Britain, finished fifth and seventh respectively. Paul Cole did, however, offer some excuse for Strategic Choice. "The ground turned against us with all the rain," he said. "He proved himself last year but the winner was very impressive."

Oliver Pestier, who partnered the 5-3 on favourite, has always championed Helissio's ability, even after the colt finished behind Singpiel, a lulliant today. "Pilsudski's jockey, Michael Kinane, said, 'He was just too good for us.' Strategic Choice and Last Second, two other raiders from Britain, finished fifth and seventh respectively. Paul Cole did, however, offer some excuse for Strategic Choice. "The ground turned against us with all the rain," he said. "He proved himself last year but the winner was very impressive."

Doubtless his connections will be after Singpiel's scalp, particularly as the latter landed the Dubai World Cup after Helissio's late withdrawal. "I am glad that I did not race him in Dubai," Helissio's trainer, Elie Lellouche, said, "although his three-month holiday did him the world of good." And Lellouche intimated the best was yet to come. "To be honest, he was not 100 per cent fit so his performance today just shows what an outstanding champion he really is."

This contest is scheduled too early in the season for defini-



Pestier pushes Helissio clear to record a stylish victory over a high-quality field in the Prix Ganay at Longchamp yesterday

## Kinane booked for Entrepreneur

By JULIAN MUSCAT

AN IMPORTANT element to the ride of Entrepreneur's 2000 Guineas prospects materialised yesterday when Michael Kinane received clearance to ride the horse in Saturday's Newmarket classic.

Kinane's affiliation with Entrepreneur, 4-1 favourite with Ladbrokes, seemed assured when the jockey arrived unannounced to exercise Entrepreneur at Sandown on Saturday. Dermot Weld, the Irish trainer with first claim on Kinane's services, yesterday confirmed the arrangement. "Michael will ride Entrepreneur," Weld said. "Dance Design runs at the Curragh on the same day but Pat Shaheen will ride her."

His identity apparently unknown to the Sandown executive, Entrepreneur arrived at the track for a key gallop early on Saturday morning. By all accounts he impressed in Kinane's hands, quickening away from Sandown, a group two winner, at the end of 7½ furlongs.

The pity was that Stoute elected to shroud the gallop in secrecy. One can appreciate Stoute's dilemma: here is an untested horse attracting a flurry of hefty

bets for the 2000 Guineas, yet one about which the public remains largely ignorant. Stoute demands privacy for his horse's homework but the betting public, whose contribution towards the sport's funding far exceeds any other, cannot now be expected to embrace the 2000 Guineas with enthusiasm. It would have been quite harmless to compile television footage of Entrepreneur's gallop for public consumption.

No one outside the colt's immediate connections is entitled to know the respective weights carried by Entrepreneur and Sacrament. Without such details, meaningful assessment of the gallop is impossible. Exacerbating the discontent is the complaint role of Sandown's executive — despite its pleas of ignorance.

Sandown's proprietors are also those of Epsom, home of the Derby, for which Entrepreneur dominates the ante-post betting. Epsom's management complains the race is unfairly maligned yet a priority is to balance the requirements of trainers and racegoers. The episode underlines just how much remains to be transformed if racing genuinely wants to embrace its paying customers.

It was all so different when Revoque, Yashmak and Reams Of Verse worked at Newbury racecourse on Saturday morning. Details were circulated in advance, and observers of Revoque will have seen him stretch three or four lengths clear of Panama City in the hands of John Reid. "He has come on from his run in the Greenham," Reid said of the 2000 Guineas candidate. "He feels the finished article."

Meanwhile, Yashmak worked with enthusiasm alongside Reams Of Verse, both tackling the 1,000 Guineas on Sunday. With Kieren Fallon sticking by Sleepytime, Henry Cecil, who will be thrice-handled in the fillies' classic, has engaged Kinane for Yashmak. Pat Eddery continues on Reams Of Verse.

### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BOLLIN HARRY

(3.45 Pontefract)

Next best: Night Of Glass

(5.15 Pontefract)

Richard Evans selected Harwell Lad (14-1) in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park on Saturday

## RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S SIX MEETINGS

### Sandown Park

2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10

2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10

2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10

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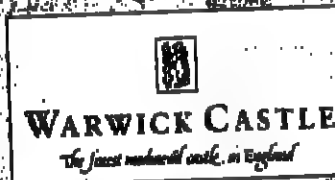
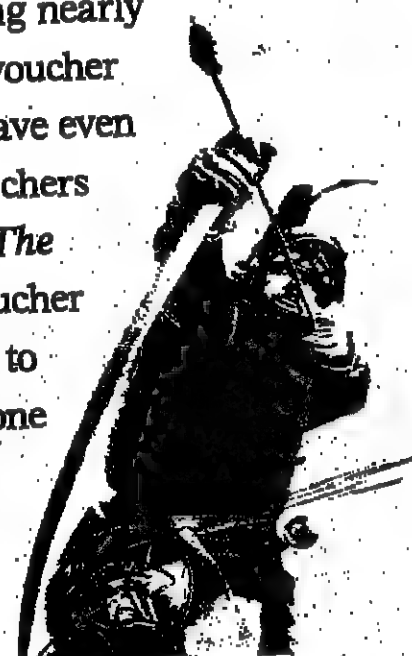
THE TIMES

# Enjoy a great day out and your child goes free



SAVE £50 ON VISITS TO SIX OF THE  
BEST FOR THRILLS AND SPILLS

Today *The Times*, in association with The Tussauds Group, is offering readers the chance to collect more than six free child tickets to Britain's top attractions. From now until the end of May you can take a child free to six of the country's favourite attractions, Madame Tussaud's, Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, Warwick Castle, The London Planetarium or Rock Circus saving nearly £50. (If you collect more than one voucher and tokens per attraction you will save even more.) Simply start collecting the vouchers and tokens which will be appearing in *The Times* until May 10. You will need one voucher plus two tokens for each attraction you wish to visit. Each completed voucher will enable you to one free child ticket, when accompanied by one full paying adult. We launch this funanza with Madame Tussaud's and, during the next two weeks, will bring you news of all the other places you can visit.



## Madame Tussaud's

You can treat yourself and take a child free to one of the most fascinating entertainment attractions in the world. The Chamber of Horrors is bigger, better and more chilling than ever. From the French Revolution to Victorian London and 20th Century serial killers, 500 years of crime and punishment is brought to life with authentic sound and visual effects, eerily life-like figures and realistic settings. There are the famous wax figures of everyone who has ever been anyone plus a spectacular time travel ride through 400 years of London life from the Great Fire to the blitz and the swinging sixties with animatronic figures and sound effects. An adult ticket is £8.95 and a child (15 and under) ticket would normally be £5.90. Madame Tussaud's is open daily from 10am-5.30pm. The offer is valid until May 31, 1997.



**THE TIMES/MADAME TUSSAUD'S FREE CHILD TICKET VOUCHER**

Attach two tokens from *The Times* to this voucher and, when you purchase an adult ticket, you will be admitted with one child at no extra charge, to Madame Tussaud's, Marylebone Road, London NW1. Present the voucher and tokens at the main entrance ticket booth.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day Tel (inc STD code) \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFER CONDITIONS** 1. The offer is valid for one child free when accompanied by one paying adult. 2. The offer applies up to May 31, 1997. 3. Each voucher must be accompanied by two *Times*/Madame Tussaud's tokens. 4. No photocopies of vouchers or tokens will be accepted. 5. There is no restriction on how many attractions you may visit. 6. You can get more than one free child ticket by purchasing extra newspapers and by buying an accompanying adult ticket. 7. Tokens not for resale and cannot be exchanged for cash. 8. Vouchers may not be used in conjunction with any other discount offer or concession rate.

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick)

☐ 1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44

☐ 4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

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CHANGING TIMES







# READ

As the election battle reaches fever pitch, there is one newspaper

# BETWEEN

you can rely on to provide intelligent, informed and objective coverage.

# THE

Our only bias is towards the truth.

# LIES.



## Capitalisation, week's change

Mid cap outstanding	Company	Price (P)			Yield (Y)			P/E			Mid cap outstanding	Company	Price (P)			Yield (Y)			P/E				
		12/1	12/2	12/3	12/1	12/2	12/3	12/1	12/2	12/3			12/1	12/2	12/3								
172.90	Advanced Tech	57 1/2	-	5.0	14.7	-	-	803.40	MP	136	-	7 1/2	42	182	-	-	689.00	-	10	10	10	10	
23.85	S&P 500	144	-	4.1	12.9	-	-	14,182.50	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	14,182.50	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
39.90	S&P 500	167	-	4.8	10.7	-	-	2,926.00	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,926.00	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
16.00	S&P 500	150	-	5.0	10.7	-	-	1,000.00	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	1,000.00	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
614.20	Schneider N/V	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
30.00	Amesbury Tech	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
281.70	Shaper & Fisher	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
2.50	Tele. Holdings	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
32.00	Tele. Holdings	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
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32.00	Tele. Holdings	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5
32.00	Tele. Holdings	185	-	47.8	18.5	-	-	2,644.10	Marshall Space	22 1/2	-	3	34	27.5									

**... week's change**

... business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the date when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and

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		LONGS (over 15 years)							
-	$\mu$	14.88	6.36						
-	$\sigma$	9.54	6.64						
-	$\tau$	7.21							
-	$\mu$	13.03	6.72	1995	Term 0.5-20 years	85%	-	7.19	7.84
-	$\sigma$	11.93	6.86		Term 0.5-20 years	110	12%	8.01	8.82
-	$\tau$	11.93	6.86		Term 0.5-20 years	100%	-	8.16	7.83
-	$\mu$	11.17	1.00		Term 2.0-20 years	85%	-	7.86	7.59
-	$\sigma$	9.13	0.65		Term 2.0-20 years	100%	-	7.94	7.59
-	$\tau$	11.21	7.84		Term 2.0-20 years	99%	-	7.81	7.81
-	$\mu$	9.85	1.88		Term 5-20 years	85%	-	7.86	7.81
-	$\sigma$	8.13	1.00		Term 5-20 years	100%	-	7.86	7.81
-	$\tau$	9.57	1.33		Term 5-20 years	100%	-	7.86	7.81
-	$\mu$	8.68	1.50		Term 5-20 years	102%	-	7.86	7.81
-	$\sigma$	7.82	1.20						
-	$\tau$	11.20	7.20						
-	$\mu$	9.20	7.35						
-	$\sigma$	7.10	7.35						
UNDATED									
-	$\mu$	1.00	100	100%	Term 0-15 years	40%	-	7.85	-
-	$\sigma$	415	350	350	Conserv. etc.	80%	-	8.20	-
-	$\tau$	350	Conserv. etc.			40%	-	8.11	-
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at									
-	$\mu$	0.80	7.40			114%	-	2%	55%
-	$\sigma$	7.80	7.80		Term 0.5-20 years				
-	$\tau$	6.91	7.54		Term 0.5-20 years	100%	-	2.74	2.49
-	$\mu$	10.12	7.80		Term 0.5-20 years	100%	-	3.00	3.49
-	$\sigma$	6.91	7.54		Term 0.5-20 years	11%	-	2.74	2.49
-	$\tau$	6.97	7.50		Term 0.5-20 years	17%	-	3.00	3.51
-	$\mu$	6.97	7.50		Term 0.5-20 years	17%	-	3.00	3.51
-	$\sigma$	6.97	7.50		Term 0.5-20 years	17%	-	3.00	3.51
-	$\tau$	6.97	7.50		Term 0.5-20 years	17%	-	3.00	3.51

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# Japanese warn of snubbing anti-euro UK

By DAVID WATTS

JAPANESE investment in Britain is likely to be cut if there is no decision to join the single currency, a senior Japanese trade official says.

"Japanese businessmen dream of a world where there would be no exchange-rate fluctuation risk," said Noboru Hatakeyama, president of the Japan External Trade Relations Organisation (Jetro). He says he is puzzled by opposition to economic and monetary union in both the Conservative and Labour parties.

"Now the dream is being realised in Europe and, of course, Japanese companies invested here are expecting their dream to come true. Then both of your parties take a negative view," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Emphasising that Jetro had no formal view, he said that, while Britain might gain from having a cheap currency in the initial stages of a single currency, it could later turn sour for British trade. Much would depend on which countries took part initially. If it turned

out to be stronger European nations such as Germany, France, Belgium and Holland then the value of the pound could be expected to decline relative to the euro, boosting Britain's trading position.

"But in the long run what will happen? Britain might come under pressure to revalue the currency because non-participation might be seen as a deliberate ploy to keep a cheaper currency. Also, as other countries with weaker economies joined, the value of the euro might go down and then a risk would be realised to investors in the UK. In the short term it might be all right but in the long term Japanese investors would be affected."

It would be difficult to see how Japanese investors could go ahead with their plans while there was such uncertainty, he said. Mr Hatakeyama is only the second senior Japanese industrial figure to go on the record with his views on a single currency after off-the-cuff remarks by Hiroshi Okuda, president of Toyota,

earlier this year. He expressed doubts about the viability of future investment if Britain stayed out and was widely believed to be reflecting the car group's corporate view. A subsequent disclaimer only served to underline how accurate his comment had been in the first place.

Earlier this year, Kogaku Inaba, chairman of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was quoted as saying: "Europe should edge slowly to monetary union but, if Britain is outside, Japanese investment policy might be changed a little bit. Britain must be economically consolidated in Europe."

Japanese corporations began to look on Europe as a federated state, for organisational purposes, when the concept was still in its infancy. Some 250 Japanese firms operate in Britain with a further 100 conducting research and development here. Over the past 45 years some 40 per cent of Japanese investment in Europe has come to Britain.



Naomi Campbell, the model, with Tommy Hilf, whose store has helped to boost rents

## Fashion's designs on Bond St

THE arrival on Bond Street in London of large stores for the cheaper "diffusion" lines of international designers such as Tommy Hilf, Calvin Klein and Prada is making it one of the hottest areas for retail property in Europe, according to a report (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Rents on Bond Street are rising at more than 10 per cent every year. Its small traditional shops are being knocked together and rebuilt inside to provide the 10,000 to 20,000 sq ft the designers prefer for their more accessible diffusion lines. Hilf, Parker, the property company, says in the report on store expansion published to-

day, Russell Schiller, who compiled the report, says Bond Street rents are likely to carry on rising faster than rents elsewhere for at least another year.

The report says it remains to be seen whether the returns on Bond Street "justify the high level of capital outlay and the buoyant rents".

## Next Chancellor must act fast to restrain domestic growth

Britain is booming, says the Tories' general election slogan. The problem with booms is that they all too often end in bust. There is a rising probability of this unless the Chancellor, whoever he is after Thursday, acts early to curb economic growth.

Interest rate decisions are complicated at present by the strength of sterling, particularly since UK inflation is very sensitive to movements in the exchange rate. The 20 per cent appreciation in sterling since the beginning of 1996 has already contributed to a fall in food prices of 1.6 per cent over the past year. There is also scope for goods price inflation to improve in coming months, reflecting the recent collapse in core producer output price inflation. These trends alone could reduce underlying retail price inflation to about 2 per cent by the end of the year, well within the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less. If sterling retains its present strength, underlying inflation could easily average 2 per cent during 1998. While the pound remains this strong or, worse, moves higher, it is hard to see any Chancellor displaying much enthusiasm for raising interest rates significantly.

serious deterioration in the balance of payments. At existing exchange rates, the current account could move from balance last year to a deficit of more than 2 per cent of GDP in 1998. At some point the worsening current account deficit will undermine the exchange rate; interest rates may then need to be raised sharply to prevent a marked pick-up in inflation — in effect a mini rerun of the late 1980s experience.

One potential way to avoid such an out-turn would be for Gordon Brown to tighten fiscal policy significantly further in his July Budget if Labour wins on Thursday. However, the scope for personal tax increases seems pretty limited given the commitments Labour has already made. Nor, after last year's sizeable undershoot in the PSBR, could Gordon Brown say that the fiscal situation is much worse than he thought. So the burden of policy tightening seems almost inevitably to continue to rest with monetary policy. In this case, the best hope for a soft landing for the economy is if the current period of sterling strength proves to be short-lived. Interest rates could then be raised sufficiently to curb domestic demand without crushing the export sector.

While this is our central forecast, the longer the period remains strong the greater the odds of a more pronounced cycle in economic activity over the next two years. There is an increasing threat of unsustainably fast domestic demand growth this year and next leading to a hard landing for the economy, probably in 1999, as the authorities battle to keep inflation down.

This environment poses dilemmas for gilt investors. Lower inflation this year is obviously good for the gilt market, but sustainable gains will be difficult until there is clear evidence that the economy is slowing. Since tangible evidence of this may be elusive for much of the year, gilts will probably remain range-bound against German bonds for several more months. With German bonds looking overvalued, ten-year gilt yields are likely to end the year just above 8 per cent.

DAVID WALTON  
Goldman Sachs

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell	Bank Buy	Bank Sell	
Australia \$	2.18	2.02	Malta	0.857	0.802
Austria Sch	20.53	18.03	Netherlands Gld	3.518	3.043
Belgium Fr	65.46	65.56	New Zealand \$	2.48	2.12
Canada \$	2.378	2.208	Norway Kr	11.96	11.19
Cyprus Cyp£	0.871	0.806	Portugal Esc	201.00	171.00
Denmark Kr	11.16	10.36	S Africa R	7.00	6.20
Finland Mk	6.88	6.21	Spain Ptas	166.64	150.50
France Fr	6.82	6.12	Sweden Kr	13.23	12.23
Germany DM	2.34	2.12	Switzerland Sfr	2.51	2.29
Greece Dr	481	431	Turkey Lira	224.558	210.558
Hong Kong \$	13.31	12.21	USA \$	1.721	1.591
Iceland Kr	1.10	1.02			
Ireland P	3.78	3.15			
Italy Lit	2020	2220			
Japan Yen	216.30	202.30			

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank, unless supply to traveller's cheques. Rates set at close of trading.

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

#### KNAPPING

(a) The action of striking or breaking with a snapping sound, particularly the shaping of flints to produce smooth flaces, as seen on East Anglian churches, particularly of the Perpendicular period. Also in the preparation of gun-flints. An echo word of Dutch and Low German origin. As in the case of other words that express an action by an imitation of its sound, the sense diverges in various directions, according as the sound or the action is prominent. In *knack* we think more of the sound, in *knop* of the stroke and its result.

#### HADDO

(b) The humpback salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), a fish closely allied to the salmon, a native of the waters of Kamtschatka, Alaska and Oregon. The OED says Amer-Indian with a ?

#### JACKMAN

(c) An attendant or retainer kept by a nobleman or landowner, referred by Scott and writers after him to *jack* meaning a short, slight-looking upper garment. Scott, *The Monastery*, 1820: "The chiefs and landed proprietors retaining in their service what were called jackmen, from the 'jack', or doublet quilted with iron, which they wore as defensive armour."

#### HONISH

(d) To bring to disgrace or ruin; to dishonour, insult, to destroy, put an end to. From Old French and High German roots. William Langland, *Piers Plowman*, 14th century (spelling partially modernised): "Honish him as an hound, and hote him go hence"

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### Adviser system review

The move by the Exchange, which regulates the junior bourse, comes after Brown Shipley, the merchant bankers, resigned as an adviser leaving clients a month to find a replacement. Under current rules, shares of AIM companies are suspended if they fail to find a replacement within four weeks. If two months elapses the shares are ejected.

There have been calls for a longer notice period and changes are expected shortly.

FRASER NELSON

1997	High	Low	Mid cap (mill)	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E	1997	High	Low	Mid cap (mill)	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E
1304	100	100	10.70	107.0	107.0	- 2	5.2	10.0	1304	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1305	101	101	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1305	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1306	102	102	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1306	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1307	103	103	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1307	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1308	104	104	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1308	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1309	105	105	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1309	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1310	106	106	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1310	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1311	107	107	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1311	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1312	108	108	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1312	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1313	109	109	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1313	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1314	110	110	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1314	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1315	111	111	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1315	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1316	112	112	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1316	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1317	113	113	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1317	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1318	114	114	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1318	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1319	115	115	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1319	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1320	116	116	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1320	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1321	117	117	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1321	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1322	118	118	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1322	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1323	119	119	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1323	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1324	120	120	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1324	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1325	121	121	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1325	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1326	122	122	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1326	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1327	123	123	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1327	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1328	124	124	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1328	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1329	125	125	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1329	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1330	126	126	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1330	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1331	127	127	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1331	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1332	128	128	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1332	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1333	129	129	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1333	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1334	130	130	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1334	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1335	131	131	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1335	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1336	132	132	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1336	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1337	133	133	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1337	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1338	134	134	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1338	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1339	135	135	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1339	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1340	136	136	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1340	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1341	137	137	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1341	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1342	138	138	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1342	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1343	139	139	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1343	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1344	140	140	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1344	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1345	141	141	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1345	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1346	142	142	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1346	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1347	143	143	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1347	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1348	144	144	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1348	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1349	145	145	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1349	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1350	146	146	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1350	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1351	147	147	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1351	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1352	148	148	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1352	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1353	149	149	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1353	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1354	150	150	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1354	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1355	151	151	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1355	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1356	152	152	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1356	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1357	153	153	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1357	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1358	154	154	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1358	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1359	155	155	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1359	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1360	156	156	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1360	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1361	157	157	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1361	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1362	158	158	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1362	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1363	159	159	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1363	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1364	160	160	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1364	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1365	161	161	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1365	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1366	162	162	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1366	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1367	163	163	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1367	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1368	164	164	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1368	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1369	165	165	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1369	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1370	166	166	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1370	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1371	167	167	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1371	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1372	168	168	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1372	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1373	169	169	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1373	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1374	170	170	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1374	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1375	171	171	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1375	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1376	172	172	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1376	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1377	173	173	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1377	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1378	174	174	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1378	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1379	175	175	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1379	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1380	176	176	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1380	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1381	177	177	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1381	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1382	178	178	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1382	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1383	179	179	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1383	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1384	180	180	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1384	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1385	181	181	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1385	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1386	182	182	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1386	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1387	183	183	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1387	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1388	184	184	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1388	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1389	185	185	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1389	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1390	186	186	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1390	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1391	187	187	10.70	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	1391	9	5.72	5.72	3%	- 1	
1392	188	188	10.70	1											



# Currency fetishism rife on top table

TALK about relative price levels across countries and people immediately take you for an economist and pass on. Talk about currencies and the conversation comes alive with issues of national pride and prestige. Yet currencies are simply the medium through which prices in different countries are made comparable. In one sense people imbue them with too much significance, in another with too little.

Last week President Chirac of France said that the euro would be "the equal of the dollar and the yen". The unspoken implication was that this would confer great benefits upon the people of France. Europe and perhaps even the world. But how? One can readily see that the prestige of European politicians and officials would be enhanced by being able to look their American and Japanese equivalents in the eye at international meetings.

According to one view of the world, we owe our prosperity directly to the outcome of such gatherings. People who believe

this are suffering from an advanced case of Top Table Mentality. For the rest of us, the prestige of politicians at international meetings is not the decisive issue. What does it amount to? Will it butter any parsnips? Or, as they say across the channel, *ou est le boeuf*? Last week another Frenchman, M. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a leading member of the Socialist Party, hinted at one possible answer: The euro must "counterbalance American domination and favour growth and jobs". But are these distinct objectives or is one supposed to follow from the other?

I cannot see much evidence in Britain of jobs lost through "American domination". Maybe it is different in France. But given the relative performance of the American and European economies over recent years, perhaps France

might benefit from rather more American domination.

More generally, there does not seem to be any evidence that the size of a country's area of circulation has much direct effect upon the standard of living of the people whose government issues it. True, the world's most important currency, the dollar, is issued by a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world, while very poor countries have currencies that are irrelevant internationally. But here the relationship runs from the size and success of the economy to the size and importance of the currency, and not the other way round.

Indeed, some of the richest countries in the world are small, and their currencies are small as well. Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark immediately spring to mind. Sometimes a country's cur-



ROGER BOOTLE

rency can be more important internationally than the weight of its economy would justify. But this is far from an unalloyed blessing, as Britain discovered after the war when sterling's status as a reserve currency greatly complicated the task of managing domestic economic policy. And having an internationally traded currency

has several times landed the Swiss in serious economic difficulties as the exchange rate has been driven to ruinously high levels.

Then there is the case of German reunification. This made the mark "bigger". But did it make it better? And did it contribute to increased German living standards? But perhaps I am doing the "Chirac view" an injustice.

Perhaps the importance of being "the equal of the dollar and the yen" stems rather from the links between the size of the currency area and other sources of prosperity. This view could have drawn support from a German Federation of Chemical Industries report, which concluded that a European single currency would "permanently improve" the competitiveness of the industry by ironing out foreign earnings fluctuations. Interestingly, a KPMG study report-

ing last week came to the opposite conclusion. It said the advent of the euro will cause an even faster shake-out of inefficient capacity in the chemical industry.

One of the most remarkable features of the euro project is its ability to attract supporters whose interests and views of the future are completely opposite. Coping with currency fluctuations must count as one of the lesser problems with which the modern business manager has to deal, thanks to cheap hedging instruments. Meanwhile, the real forces of competition and consolidation will cause problems for industry, single currency or no. The one view imbues the single currency with unrealistic hopes for gain. The other seeks to saddle it with the responsibility for painful adjustment that is necessary anyway. Both are examples of currency

fetishism. Ironically, both views ascribe near-magical properties to currencies while missing the sense in which they can be really important, namely the level at which the exchange rate is fixed and the need, from time to time, for that level to change, as we discovered when we left the Gold Standard in 1931, and again when we left the ERM in 1992.

The task facing the managers of a country's money is both simple and difficult. They are neither the source of a country's wealth nor the fount of its prestige. Their role is simply to avoid making mistakes, either domestically through the creation of inflation or slump, or internationally through the gross misalignment of a country's currency with others.

There is no reason to believe that they are more likely to manage this task well if the currency is "big". They are more likely to manage it badly, however, if the institutions and structures are wrong. And then, the bigger the currency, the bigger the mistakes.

## Newcastle looks at selling stadium before it is built

By JASON NISSE

NEWCASTLE UNITED may not actually own the new 55,000-seat stadium it is planning to build at Castle Leazes. It may pre-sell it to a property developer or a bank to avoid having to ask shareholders to finance the £65 million project.

The club's shares have been hit by worries that it will launch a rights issue next year to fund the new stadium and are still standing below the flotation price of last month. However, Mark Corbridge, joint chief executive of Newcastle, said that the club has been approached by a number of City banks with attractive propositions to finance the stadium without draining the club's resources.

Among the plans is a loan or bond package secured on the future gate receipts from Castle Leazes. Instead of a straight interest payment, the banks would take a share of the season ticket, executive box and ticket sales at the stadium.

This may be done on a sale-and-leaseback arrangement to take advantage of the £37 million of tax losses on Newcastle's balance sheet.

"What is the benefit of owning your own stadium?" asked Mr Corbridge. "French, Italian and German clubs do not own their stadiums."

However, a sale to a bank or a property company raised the spectre of deals struck in the 1980s that led to problems for leading clubs. Chelsea had a long battle to regain control of its ground at Stamford Bridge after it was sold first to Mahler Estates and then to Cabra Estates. After Cabra collapsed, the freehold passed to Royal Bank of Scotland, which then sold it to Matthew Harding, the club's deputy chairman, whose heirs now own the ground after Mr Harding's death.

Industry experts have also raised concerns about the expense of the Newcastle sta-

dium, which the club has budgeted at £65 million.

In the North East, Middlesbrough built a 30,000-seat stadium at Riverside for a mere £12 million, and Sunderland is putting the finishing touches to its 41,000-seat new ground at Wearmouth, which is costing £16.5 million.

Graham Fryer, of Drivers Jonas, the surveyors, was consulted on both projects. He sees no reason why a top-flight stadium should cost more than £20 million before fitting out costs and recently said he could not understand why Castle Leazes was costing so much.

According to figures from Newcastle, the basic stadium will cost £40 million, with another £15 million for executive boxes and £10 million for other facilities.

The club hopes to win planning permission soon so that it can complete the stadium in time for the start of the 1999-2000 season.



Brown: 53 per cent ownership

## CWC comes to market worth £5bn

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM'S strongest competitor is born today, when the shares of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), a £5 billion phone and multimedia company, begin trading on the London and New York stock exchanges.

CWC, at a stroke, will have 10 per cent of the £21 billion telecommunications market, with 1.1 million phone customers and 600,000 cable-TV customers. It is being formed from the merger of Mercury Communications, which was 80 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron phone companies.

C&W, whose chief executive is Dick Brown, will own about 53 per cent. The North American parent companies of Nynex and Bell CableMedia, which recently bought Videotron, will own 18.5 per cent and 14.2 per cent, respectively. The remaining 14.7 per cent will be in public hands.

Analysts expect CWC to be capitalised at between £4.5 billion and £5.5 billion. The shares will open for trading in London at 2.30pm. With £1.3 billion in initial net debt, a capital expenditure programme of £2.3 billion over the next two years and slim profits, it is unlikely that CWC will pay a dividend until the turn of the century.

CWC's formation could trigger a global telecoms realignment. France Telecom, which is to be privatised after the French election, has held talks aimed at bringing CWC into its Global One alliance with Deutsche Telekom and Sprint. A C&W spokesman said no deal was imminent.

## Bout of indigestion expected to disturb restaurants boom

The fashion for eating out may be losing flavour, says Morag Preston

Should Sir Terence Conran care to es-

drop on the idle dinner-table chatter that gives his restaurants their fashionable buzz, he might be less enthusiastic about the opening next month of his eighth 240-seater restaurant. A sector that is bubbling away quite happily at the moment is, according to experts, about to go off the boil.

The great British stomach has had its fill of giant eateries. In the restaurant trade they say that what happens in London happens in the regions six months later. So on Friday, City Centre Restaurants was happily paying £17.75m for Est Est Est, an upmarket chain of Italian diners in the North of England. Familiar brands as well as state-of-the-art restaurants such as Manchester's Mash and Air, are plying their trade outside the capital. In the last decade alone, the number of restaurants in London has grown by 3,000 to 8,000. But now the experts predict that indigestion is about to set in.

"The bubble will burst in nine months," says Richard Shepherd, owner of Langan's Brasserie in Mayfair, not far from Sir Terence's Quaglinos, which opened in 1993. "The eating-out trend will carry on, but customers will become more discerning. People will look for an overall package — the cuddle factor. They don't want to be anonymous; they don't want to come in and go out on a conveyor belt. They want to be made comfortable, and eat a good meal that's value for money."

A chef until recently in his 240-seater restaurant, of which actor Michael Caine is a partner, Shepherd cites his background in the kitchen as

his safety net. "There's a difference between being an operator and an entrepreneur. My small amount of business acumen tells me that if the product is right, then the business will follow. The moment accounts start leading the business, then you have a problem," he says.

Chris Bodker, entrepreneur and owner of Avenue on St James's Street, has not come from a catering background. Formerly at BZW, Bodker left the City to set up the successful eatery with the backing of 70 investors; he bought in restaurant expertise and already has plans for at least one new restaurant before the year end.

Shepherd remains sceptical: "I know what it has taken out of me and my staff to keep on the tracks over the past 20 years. As soon as a crack appears, I know how to fill it before it starts splitting. With 500 people to look after and no experience, that's harder to do."

In the long term, location is a key factor. Chilis, a vast Tex-Mex restaurant, that opened and closed within the last year despite its success in America, was at the wrong end of Shaftesbury Avenue. Operated by the Restaurant House Group, which has the franchise for Europe, it took a huge capital investment to start the restaurant, which was housed

in a refurbished listed building. "People are working longer hours and eating out more than ever. That looks set to continue, but we have a long way to go before we eat out as much as Americans," says Angela Jameson, of *The Caterer & Hotelkeeper*, the trade magazine.

It is the smaller restaurants that will attract new custom, according to Trevor Watson of the property consultants Davis Coffey Lyons, who refers to the "restaurant graveyard". He says: "The number of large restaurants opening has reached a plateau of late, due to lack of players. The fitting-out costs are huge and fashion plays an important part. If the payback period is only between two and three years, you've got to be seriously profitable. The strongest market is among restaurants between 3,000 and 7,000 sq ft. Five years ago, 5,000 sq ft would have been a very big unit, but that's average now."

It is too late for some small restaurants who have been squeezed out of the high street in the same way as large supermarkets have gobbled up their smaller counterparts. "The first hint of a recession and the small restaurants will be in trouble," says Erica Brown, editorial director of *The Egon Ronay Guides*. "A lot of restaurants have changed hands over the last decade and people are over-reaching themselves, borrowing huge amounts of money for fancy decor."

Success also has its downsides, according to Jameson: "If you budget for so many customers and then that number doubles, many restaurants don't have the investment in the short term to cope."



Food for thought in the kitchen for Sir Terence Conran

### CHANGE ON WEEK

#### THE POUND

US dollar 1.6230 (-0.0080)  
German mark 2.7977 (-0.0014)  
Exchange index 99.7 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2862.0 (+27.5)  
FTSE 100 4369.7 (+59.2)  
New York Dow Jones 6738.87 (+35.32)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 18612.86 (+260.72)

## Flying Colours at the double for BA

By OLIVER AUGUST

PLANS by British Airways to contract out low-yield routes in a move to become a "virtual airline" have stirred charter operators into action.

Flying Colours, the leisure group that acquired Club 18-30, will double its fleet of aircraft over the next two years to fly BA passengers. The new UK charter carrier is expected to operate a host of routes to the Americas, flying under BA colours in a ground-breaking franchising deal.

Errol Cossey, the Flying Colours chief executive and a pioneer of charter aviation, is committed to leasing another four new Boeing 757s by 1999. The carrier took delivery of its first four Boeings in March. Flying Colours and BA

refuse to comment on plans to franchise out all routes to primary holiday destinations, with BA acting as a holding company, lending its brand name to the flight operator.

The contracting out of flight services is part of BA's £1 billion cost-cutting programme unveiled last year. Earlier this month, BA announced the sale of its Heathrow catering division, which produces 50,000 meals a day.

BA has concluded several franchise agreements on short-haul routes in Europe. The extension of the rimdown exercise to long-haul operations is the next savings measure masterminded by Bob Ayling, the ambitious BA chief executive.



### PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION PLC

#### TENDER OFFERS BY PRUDENTIAL FOR UP TO 5.4 PER CENT. OF THE ENLARGED SHARE CAPITAL OF ST. JAMES'S PLACE CAPITAL PLC ("SJPC")

On 9 April 1997, the boards of SJPC and J. Rothschild Assurance Holdings plc ("JRAH") announced, inter alia, a Scheme of Arrangement ("the Scheme") whereby SJPC would acquire all of the issued share capital of JRAH which it did not already own. At the same time, Prudential Corporation plc ("Prudential") announced Tender Offers to be made on its behalf by J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited ("Schroders") to acquire up to approximately 30.5 million ordinary shares of 15p each in the capital of SJPC ("SJPC Shares") in order to bring Prudential's interest in SJPC's share capital, as proposed to be increased by the implementation of the Scheme, to 29.9 per cent. Since the announcements, Prudential has acquired 10 million SJPC Shares. Schroders, on Prudential's behalf, is therefore now tendering for the balance of 21.7 million SJPC Shares.

The Tender Offers comprise an offer to acquire by tender existing SJPC Shares (the "SJPC Shareholder Tender Offer") and an offer to acquire by tender SJPC Shares to which shareholders in JRAH as at 25 April 1997 ("JRAH Shareholders") will become entitled upon the Scheme becoming effective (the "JRAH Shareholder Tender Offer").

The JRAH Shareholder Tender Offer is conditional on the Scheme becoming effective in accordance with its terms, and the allotment and issue to JRAH Shareholders of new SJPC Shares.

The Tender Offers are conditional on the receipt of tenders in respect of at least 4.0 million SJPC Shares (representing 1.0% of the enlarged SJPC Share Capital). If tenders for less than such number of SJPC Shares are received the Tender Offers will be void. Subject to these two conditions, all tenders will be irrevocable.

The Tender Offers are at a fixed price of 130p per SJPC Share. Prudential currently owns, or is deemed to control, approximately 20.4 million SJPC Shares, representing approximately 7.3% of SJPC's present issued ordinary share capital.

The Tender Offer will close at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 12 May 1997 and no tenders received after that time will be accepted. The result of the Tender

Offers and, if applicable, the extent to which tenders will be scaled down will be announced by 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 13 May 1997.

The Tender Offers document and its accompanying Form of Tender have been posted to JRAH Shareholders. SJPC shareholders can obtain the Tender Offers document and Form of Tender from the addresses set out below. SJPC shareholders and JRAH Shareholders wishing to tender their SJPC Shares should lodge their duly completed Form(s) of Tender, together (if relevant) with their share certificates and/or other documents of title either by hand only at The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrars Department, New Issues Section, PO Box 633, 5-10 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5FR, or by post or hand to arrive at the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrars Department, New Issues Section, PO Box 859, Consort House, East Street, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 1XZ no later than 3.00 p.m. on 12 May 1997. Settlement of the consideration due in respect of SJPC Shares tendered and accepted, will be made: (i) to SJPC shareholders, 5 business days after the SJPC Shareholder Tender Offer closes (and, where appropriate, in accordance with the CREST assured payment arrangements); and (ii) to JRAH Shareholders, 5 business days after their SJPC Shares are allotted and issued in accordance with the Proposals.

This is a summary of the terms of the Tender Offers. Full details of which are contained in the Tender Offers document dated 28 April 1997.

Copies of the Tender Offers document and Forms of Tender are available from:

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc  
Registrars Department  
New Issues Section  
PO Box 859  
Consort House, East Street  
Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 1XZ  
J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited  
120 Cheapside  
London EC2V 6DS

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc  
Registrars Department  
New Issues Section  
PO Box 633  
5-10 Great Tower Street  
London EC3R 5FR  
Cazenove & Co  
12 Tokenhouse Yard  
London EC2A 7AN

## ROBECO GROUP

### ROBECO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)  
Robeco NV announces a cash dividend of Fls 3.52 per ordinary share of Fls 10 (Fls 0.352 per sub-share) for the financial year 1996.

#### BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Coupon No. 45 accompanied by the appropriate claim form should be presented to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Centre, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The dividend will be payable at Fls 3.52 per share, less tax as appropriate, as from 9 May 1997 against surrender of Coupon No. 45.

#### SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should lodge the special claim form with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Centre, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR.

Payment of the dividend must be marked on the reverse side of the certificate in accordance with "Marking Name" procedures.

Other claimants must also complete the special claim form and present this at the above address together with the relevant certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC.

All claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted. The Record Date is 25 April 1997.

Payment of Fls 0.352 per sub-share will be made by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited on or after 9 May 1997 and will be subject to Marking Name commission and tax, as appropriate.

#### SHARES HELD BY CF-DEPOSITARIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the case of shares of which the dividend sheets were at the close of business on 25 April 1997 in the custody of a United Kingdom Depositary admitted by the Centrum voor Fondsenadministratie B.V., Amsterdam, this dividend will be paid to each Depositary on 9 May 1997. Such payment will be made through National Westminster Bank PLC, after receipt by them of a duly completed CF Dividend Claim Form.

#### CONVERSION OF DUTCH CURRENCY

Payment, in respect of bearer share certificates and sub-share certificates, will be made in sterling at the buying rate of exchange current in London at 2.00 p.m. on 1 May 1997 (Value 9 May 1997). CF-Shares will also be paid at this rate.

#### SHAREHOLDERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Approved Agents in the Republic of Ireland may present coupons to the Company's Paying Agents there, Allied Irish Banks PLC, Registrars and New Issues Department, Bank Centre, PO Box 954, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

28 April 1997

### ROLINCO N.V.

(investment company with a variable capital)  
Rolinco NV announces a cash dividend of Fls 1.84 per ordinary share of Fls 10 (Fls 1.84 per sub-share) for the financial year 1996.

#### BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Coupon No. 37 accompanied by the appropriate claim form should be presented to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Centre, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The dividend will be payable at Fls 1.84 per share, less tax as appropriate, as from 9 May 1997 against surrender of Coupon No. 37.

#### SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should lodge the special claim form with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Centre, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR.

Payment of the dividend must be marked on the reverse side of the certificate in accordance with "Marking Name" procedures.

Other claimants must also complete the special claim form and present this at the above address together with the relevant certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC.

All claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted. The Record Date is 25 April 1997.

Payment of Fls 0.184 per sub-share will be made by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited on or after 9 May 1997 and will be subject to Marking Name commission and tax, as appropriate.

#### SHARES HELD BY CF-DEPOSITARIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the case of shares of which the dividend sheets were at the close of business on 25 April 1997 in the custody of a United Kingdom Depositary admitted by the Centrum voor Fondsenadministratie B.V., Amsterdam, this dividend will be paid to each Depositary on 9 May 1997. Such payment will be made through National Westminster Bank PLC, after receipt by them of a duly completed CF Dividend Claim Form.

#### CONVERSION OF DUTCH CURRENCY

Payment, in respect of bearer share certificates and sub-share certificates, will be made in sterling at the buying rate of exchange current in London at 2.00 p.m. on 1 May 1997 (Value 9 May 1997). CF-Shares will also be paid at this rate.

#### SHAREHOLDERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Approved Agents in the Republic of Ireland may present coupons to the Company's Paying Agents there, Allied Irish Banks PLC, Registrars and New Issues Department, Bank Centre, PO Box 954, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

28 April 1997



TELEVISION CHOICE

## A tale of DES's daughters

[illegible]









## MOVING IN 44

Fashion has designs on Bond Street

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 28 1997

# BUSINESS

ROGER BOOTLE 45

Exchange of views on currencies



## Britain losing foreign investment to pro-EU countries

By Philip Bassett and Alasdair Murray

INDUSTRY is suffering a fall in investment, with foreign firms being attracted to countries with a strong European Union commitment and British firms investing less than in the early Eighties.

The Confederation of British Industry will say today that investment performance is "disappointing" compared with recovery from recession in the early 1980s

and in comparison with competitor countries. At the same time, a report over the weekend showed that the UK has been overtaken by France as the favourite centre for new investment into the European Union by foreign companies.

The report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research said that while the UK has the largest share of all external investment in the EU, this had declined to 23 per cent in 1995, from 30 per cent a decade before.

New investment in Britain has declined from an annual average of \$22 billion in 1986-90 to \$17 billion in 1991-95. In the same period new investment in France has increased from an average of \$8 billion a year to \$19 billion.

The report argues that while the UK's flexible labour markets remain attractive to foreign firms, the country is losing out in the race to win more capital and research and development-intensive new businesses. The NIESR points to the

record of British companies investing abroad as evidence that the social chapter and tighter Labour market regulations in other European countries is not seen as an insurmountable obstacle to investment by large multinational companies.

The CBI has found that since the election in early 1992 "investment trends have been disappointing, with the recovery in investment falling well short of that in the early Eighties and with some other countries". The confederation studied

fixed capital spending since 1992 and compared it with the trend during the economic recovery 11 years earlier. It found that economy-wide investment in the last quarter of 1996 was only about 5 per cent higher than five years before, whereas total fixed investment had grown by as much as 20 per cent at the same stage of the 1980s recovery.

The CBI says this "comparatively weak recovery" in investment is in part due to the public sector since capital spending by the Conservatives has fallen by a third over the duration of the recovery.

Business investment, by contrast, has been better, with private-sector housing investment up by 13.5 per cent and total business investment up by 10 per cent, although the CBI accepts that this compares with an increase of 27 per cent in overall business investment during the comparable period of the 1980s.

Japanese warning, page 44

£31bn estimate in 'cloud cuckoo land'

## Millennium bug fears exaggerated

By Fraser Nelson

TASKFORCE 2000, the government-sponsored agency that last month predicted that the millennium problem could cost the UK £31 billion, has admitted that the figure was a wild estimate taken from "cloud cuckoo land".

Robin Guenier, executive director of the agency, said the headline-grabbing figure was not a practical assessment of the cost to British industry but a means of drawing attention to the scale of the problem.

An independent report due to be published next month says the cost of the bug — which throws computers into confusion after the year 99 — will be £10 billion.

The *Holway Report*, an annual publication with a wide following in the City, says most of the cost will be absorbed by normal growth in the computer market. It concludes that the millennium effect — the cost to UK businesses over and above their normal computer spend — is unlikely to exceed £3 billion.

Mr Guenier said he knew his £31 billion figure was unrealistic when he found that 260,000 programmers would be needed to change the lines of old computer code that store dates in the two-digit format.

He said: "Of course, we were in cloud cuckoo land because we just don't have that number of people. That was my real message — that the problem is just too large to complete in time."

"I have always said the cost of the problem is secondary to getting on with it, so I avoided giving a figure. But people kept asking me how much it would cost and I got a bit fed up, so I compiled this report. It was off-the-cuff, a case of sitting down at a computer and making a little spreadsheet."

The *Holway Report* uses figures from Year 2000 Conference Europe, an industry-backed taskforce, which forecast that BT will spend £350 million sorting out the problem, the four largest banks £480 million and the ten largest insurers £800 million. A further 900 large companies face an average bill of £6 million.

Including the health service (£120 million), social security (£130 million) and the Ministry of Defence (£110 million), the total comes to £9.72 billion.

BT, which has vast data-banks that leave it more exposed to the millennium problem than any other UK company, has confirmed that the millen-

nium effect will be £200 million, with the rest underlying growth. It adds that the leap year factor — 00 will delay the normal test of being divisible by four — poses as much of a problem as the millennium bug itself. The Halifax has chosen not to correct every line of old-style computer code, but completely replace the older parts of its computer system.

The problem has arisen because computers have evolved rather than been replaced, leaving many programs still rooted in the 1970s. None of the analysts deny that the bug poses a serious and expensive problem. The *Holway Report* works on the basis that spend will not be limited by budgets but by resources.

Few agree on whether the problem will act as a drain on financial resources or as a catalyst for a much-needed break with old-style computer systems.

The *Holway Report* concludes that the real millennium threat is posed by companies that raid their long-term computer budget to meet the deadline. In the rush, it says, the British computer market will surge by 20 per cent to £38.3 billion by the year 2000, but may then fall into a financial vacuum when the work has been done, leading the computer industry into recession.



MARGARET YOUNG is leaving NatWest Markets, where she defended companies such as William Cook and Amer from hostile bids, to join DLI Phoenix, the corporate finance boutique. Mrs Young, 42, pictured, has been

with NatWest since 1985. She will work with Martin Smith and Allison Carnwarth in a team whose reputation led Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the Wall Street firm, to pay £50 million for Phoenix this year.

## Co-op calls DTI and Bank over Regan

By Sarah Cunningham

THE CO-OPERATIVE Wholesale Society has contacted the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry about the aborted £1.2 billion bid by Andrew Regan, on which he was advised by Hambros Bank.

The CWS said that it has been in touch with both bodies to draw their attention to the activities of the 31-year-old entrepreneur and his associates and advisers during the planning of the bid. Plans to launch the bid by writing to all Co-op members were dropped on Thursday after Mr Regan's main financial backer, Nomura, pulled out.

It was not clear yesterday what action, if any, CWS would take against Mr Regan or any of his advisers. CWS has also asked the Stock Exchange to investigate trading in Lancia Trust, the Guernsey company run by Mr Regan, whose shares were suspended in February after a dramatic rise. Lancia is a major shareholder in Galileo, the company set up to carry out the takeover.

Allan Green and David Chambers, the CWS executives accused of leaking sensitive documents to Mr Regan, were sacked at the weekend. Roger Jones, CWS secretary, wrote to both men on Saturday telling them that they had been summarily dismissed and asking them to return their company cars, both Jaguars.

The CWS is pursuing the bid players in the courts. Private criminal action has been begun against Mr Green and Mr Regan and his partner David Lyons, and civil action

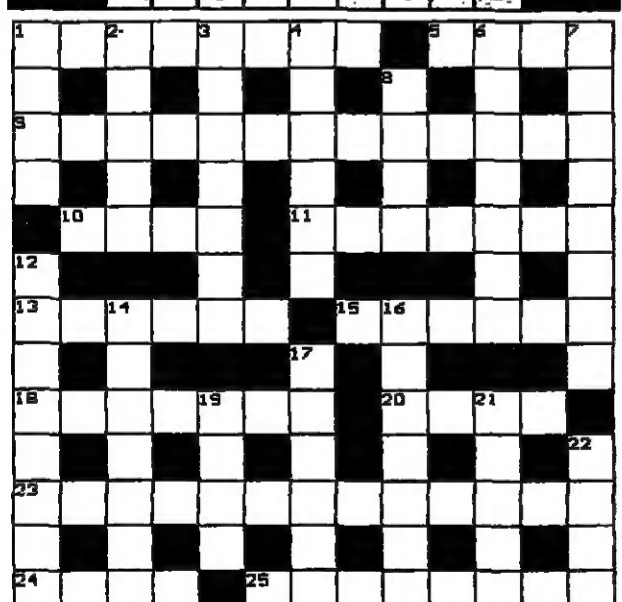
## Float plan for First National

FIRST NATIONAL, the giant Irish building society, is close to announcing a conversion to a public company ahead of a £4 billion flotation (Jason Nisse writes).

The float would bring windfalls for 150,000 investors, though many in the UK who have First National postal accounts could lose out.

The 136-year-old building society has been expanding aggressively in the UK, having bought The Mortgage Corporation from Salomon Brothers last year. It has appointed ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, to advise on the conversion.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1079

- ACROSS
- 1 Glorious race meeting (8)
  - 5 Twin of Jacob (4)
  - 9 How chance falls out (4,2,3,4)
  - 10 Alban — Schönberg pupil (4)
  - 11 Hazard (7)
  - 13 Urge on (6)
  - 15 Self-possessed; balanced (6)
  - 18 "With — read" (*Pirates of Penzance*) (3-4)
  - 20 Support rear (4)
  - 23 Chem. element arrangement (8,5)
  - 24 EMU currency (4)
  - 25 Well said (4,1,4)
- DOWN
- 1 Bird; deceive (4)
  - 2 When due, signalled (2,3)
  - 3 Fashioned (7)
  - 3,19 Material for egg gates (7,4)
  - 4 Range of eight notes (6)
  - 6 Vegetables; bourgeois (7)
  - 7 Awkward (8)
  - 8 Controlling strap; sounds like he king (4)
  - 12 Follower of guru (8)
  - 14 Provisioner (7)
  - 16 Earth-circling satellite (7)
  - 17 Is (6)
  - 19 Golf club; element (4)
  - 21 Anchor rope; naut. distance (5)
  - 22 Call derisively (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1078

ACROSS: 7 Michelangelo 9 Le Havre 10 Plunk 11 Well 12 Werewolf 13 Nineteen 17 To-do 19 Ship 21 Redhead 23 Old-fashioned

DOWN: 1 Michelin 2 Shove 3 Sleeve 4 Snapper 5 Veto 6 Book of words 8 Blow one's top 13 Odometer 14 Stellar 16 Early 18 Idiot 20 Bode

## US elections cost BAT \$827,000

By Jason Nisse

BAT INDUSTRIES, whose chairman, Lord Cairns, has hinted that it could emerge as a tobacco and insurance business, has revealed it spent \$827,000 last year on political donations in the US.

The figure is not disclosed to shareholders in its annual report despite a requirement to detail any payments made to UK political parties.

Brown & Williamson, BAT's US tobacco business, which is set to join in the \$300 billion settlement of smoking-related litigation in the US, spent \$600,000 supporting candidates ahead of the US presidential elections last year.

The majority of these payments were to Republican candidates. The Democratic Clinton administration has been leading the pressure on tobacco companies by increas-

ing regulation, which was added to on Friday when a North Carolina court ruled tobacco was a drug.

Farmers, the California-based insurance group owned by BAT, paid \$27,725 to over 400 candidates standing in various elections, including those for state insurance commissioner.

The figures were revealed in a letter to Pric, the corporate governance lobby group, which has been pressing companies to reveal political donations. Earlier this month Glaxo Wellcome admitted it had paid \$300,000 to political parties in the US while trumpeting in its annual report that it paid no political donations in the UK.

The payments by the BAT subsidiaries are so-called "soft" donations, a direct payment in support of a candidate for office.

## Daewoo eye on £200m UK plant

DAEWOO, the South Korean motor group, plans to build a £200 million car engine factory in Western Europe and almost certainly will choose a site in the West Midlands.

The engine factory is thought to be part of a move towards full car-assembly operations in the United Kingdom. Last year, Daewoo said it intends to invest as much as \$6 billion in overseas car and engine plants.

Hyundai, the largest Korean car company, may also build a factory in Britain. It is completing a feasibility study for a plant that would initially build 100,000 cars a year.

The Koreans want a Western Europe manufacturing base partly because they fear that the European Union could erect barriers to Korean imports. Japan used the same strategy in the 1970s and 1980s in the US.

## IMF says single currency vital to economic stability

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund has cautioned against any delay in the launch of a single European currency, giving warning that inaction could mean turmoil in the financial markets.

Jacques Artur, deputy director of European development, and Massimo Russo, a senior adviser to the Fund, said in Washington yesterday that all countries were capable of meeting the fiscal criteria for inclusion in European Monetary Union by the deadline of January 1999.

Despite market speculation

about whether European countries, and in particular Italy, could meet the targets, the IMF remained convinced these could be achieved and were essential to future economic stability.

"We at the IMF believe a delay would lead to substantial dangers," Mr Russo said. Although it was still impossible to assess an exchange rate for the Euro, one would be feasible by late 1998 and must be announced to the markets as soon as possible, he added.

The IMF has credited the EMU project with pushing

through some reforms but believes it is also exacting a toll by creating business and consumer uncertainty.

The latest warning came as finance ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations met in Washington to review international economic policy. At the centre of the debate was the soaring dollar, which, aided by a strong global economy and higher US interest rates, has risen by more than 50 per cent against the yen and 24 per cent against the mark since April 1995.

## ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR LIFE ASSURANCE?

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Woolwich Life 31.98	Woolwich Life 77.05
Abbey National Life 32.78	Abbey National Life 77.58
Barclays Life 35.40	Nat West Life 82.10
Commercial Union 36.00	Nationwide Life 83.50
Nationwide Life 37.81	Barclays Life 86.00
Clerical Medical 45.50	Black Horse Life 101.68
Black Horse Life 46.38	Clerical Medical 111.20
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## Britain ready for Zaire evacuation

Britain is ready to evacuate its citizens from Zaire, says the Foreign Office, after the country's political situation deteriorated.

The Ministry of Defence said the evacuation of British citizens from Zaire would be carried out by the Royal Air Force.

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## Tighter security for the Maze

Stricter security measures are to be imposed in the Maze prison after a government inquiry into an 18-year-old man found out of the prison found that the paramilitaries controlled the Maze.

Full details of the 44 deaths are to be made more frequently.

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